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OPINION METER

This week's poll: Have you attended or do you plan to attend the public hearings being held to solicit

opinions on the Interior Department's recommendation to grant status to long-term alien workers?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

NSIDE



Photo Exhibit

Duty Free Galleria Saipan is currently hosting a photo exhibit featuring some of the CNMI's birds.

LOCAL...Page 6



Playboy Buyout

Hugh Hefner wants to buy out the portion of the Playboy empire he doesn't already own.

BUSINESS...Page 15



Freshman Years

Receiving a high school diploma marks the end of study and the beginning of education.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 18

King admits being hurt by WASC report. PAGE 2 It's now easier for vets with PTSD to claim benefits. PAGE 14

2 options for Rota, Tinian nurses

The Tinian leadership is confident that we will be able to address this matter with the help of all parties concerned.



People flock to the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa yesterday to see whether their refund or federal stimulus checks are already in their mailboxes, following the Fitial administration's mailing out of some 10,000 refund checks worth \$6.4 million on Monday night.

People troop to post office for refund, stimulus checks

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com

People flocked to the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa yesterday upon learning that some 10,000 refund checks worth some \$6.4 million, as well as federal stimulus checks, were mailed out Monday night.

"My husband and I will reserve this money for school supplies," hotel em-

ployee Andrea Lansang told *Saipan* Press secretary Angel Demapan said *Tribune* after checking her mailbox some 9,000 refund checks are under proand finding her and her husband's cess for release in the next few days combined federal "Making Work Pay" credit check of \$800.

She said it is better to save money now for school supplies rather than wait for the start of the new school year in September.

The 10,000 refund checks released yesterday were only the first batch.

Some people wanted to know how the Department of Finance determined those included in the first batch.

Demapan said "the issuance of refund checks was processed by filing date, provided that each taxpayer's documents passed the clearance process without any

See PEOPLE on Page 4

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

cting Gov. Eloy S. Inos and lawmakers met late vesterday afternoon to find ways to pay the salaries of Saipan Employment Agency and Services assigned to the Rota Health Center and the Tinian Health Center, but have so far come up with just two options.

Hofschneider

As of yesterday, none of the SEAS nurses were working at the Rota Health Center; SEAS nurses at the Tinian Health Center have yet to receive the salaries they were supposed to get on July 2.

One of the options to pay the nurses is for the Fitial administration to reprogram

See GOVT on Page 4

Triple J to build \$12M apartment buildings in CK

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Triple J Saipan Inc. is planning to build apartment buildings worth \$12 million on private land along the beach in Chalan Kanoa.

That would make Triple J one of the very few businesses that are still planning to invest in new construction projects despite the economic downturn.

See TRIPLE J on Page 4



2 WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Local



King admits being hurt by WASC report

>>> Board of Regents to elect chair on Friday

By MONETH G. DEPOSA

REPORTER

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents chair Janet H. King admitted being hurt by the accrediting commission report that criticized her leadership but said that she will continue serving as chairman if re-elected.

The seven-member NMC board is scheduled to elect a chairperson on Friday. Board policy requires the election of a chair and treasurer in evennumbered years.

"The report hurt my feelings but I don't mind...because it's my commitment to the college and my duty as board member that is more important now," King told Saipan Tribune yesterday.

The Western Association of Schools and College's report cited many instances where King—along with other regents-exerted their influence in the operations of the college.

Her appointment of NMC interim president Lorraine P. Cabrera and the subsequent adjustment in Cabrera's salary without prior board approval were also criticized.

Although she wouldn't describe the report as unfair, King pointed out that many positive developments at NMC during her term were not included in the report.

King said she acknowledges criticism because it's a reflection of her leadership.

"I have learned that it is not as simple or as easy to get a group of people together and follow an agenda, but it becomes very easy when you remind them that the ultimate goal is not personal gain but the mission of the college," she said.

King is the youngest member of the board. Since assuming its chairmanship, she said she demonstrated her will to improve the quality of education at the only community college in the Commonwealth.

"I enjoy being chair very much because the challenge of leading the Board of Regents has allowed me to learn that my commitment to the college is very strong, not only the professional commitment of being a regent but also the personal sacrifices," she said.

All board members serve as volunteers after adopting a toughest times," she added.

King

policy that waived their honorarium.

'Leadership is heart'

In her short stint as chairperson, King said she has learned the elements of the chair's leadership role-facilitation, communication, information, participation, expectation, and collaboration.

"My experience has been that an occupationally diverse board like ours is a strength; however, on occasion, a chair also expends a lot of time and energy working with board members to be open and expressive of their thoughts and convictions without fear of criticism, while demonstrating appreciation for active participation," she said.

King added that her experience has taught her that leadership is an interaction between four variables—characteristics of the leader, characteristics of those he or she leads, characteristics of the organization, and the social, economic and political environment.

"Leadership is also 'heart.' That means it requires real commitment and unwavering perseverance, especially through the

CUC sues 2 firms for unpaid bills

The Commonwealth Utilities collect on unpaid bills from two \$4,461.72 in damages, attorcompanies that allegedly last paid CUC three years ago.

CUC, through counsel S. Joshua Berger, sued R&C Corp. and BFJ Inc. for breach of contract. R&C is a tour agency while BFJ Inc. is a wine retailer.

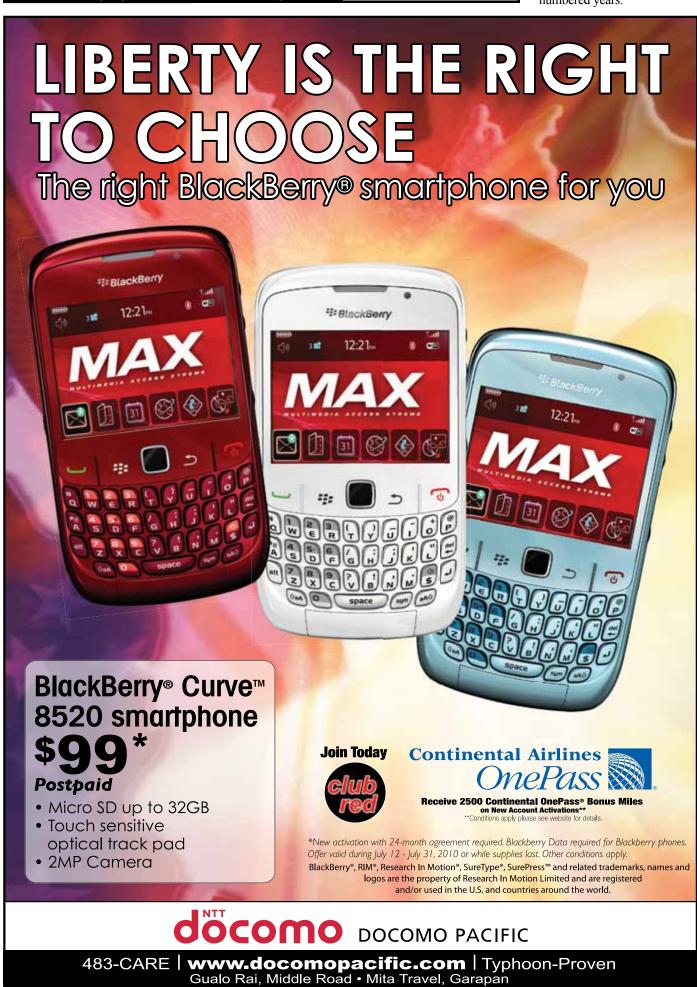
Saipan Tribune contacted R&C Corp. yesterday afternoon, but no one was available to comment. There was no contact number for BFJ Inc.

CUC asked the Superior Court to order R&C pay \$3,509.95 in damages, plus attorney's fees, court costs, and pre-judgment interest of 12 percent per annum.

The utilities agency asked the Corp. has filed two lawsuits to court to hold BFJ Inc. liable for ney's fees, court costs, and prejudgment interest of 12 percent per annum.

Berger stated in the complaint that R&C's last payment to CUC was on Nov. 20, 2007, amounting to \$466.25. R&C Corp. still has a remaining balance of \$3,509.95 including the offset for the \$462 deposit, he said.

Berger said BFJ Inc.'s last payment was on May 25, 2007, in the amount of \$1,607.42. "[BFJ] still has a remaining balance of \$4,461.72, taking into account the offset for the [\$588] deposit," the lawyer said. (Ferdie de la Torre)



'Saipan perfect setting for sustainable projects, designs'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

With its island setting, strategic location and weather conditions, Saipan is a perfect setting for showcasing sustainable designs

and projects, according to an accredited professional in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

During a regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan yesterday at Hyatt Saipan's Regency

Giovanni's Restaurant, Sam McPhetres of Rolluda Architects said their firm is actively looking for potential projects on island by utilizing environmental factors and issues at hand.

McPhetres

'We have great wind that's always blowing, we have sun most of the year. The problems that we have to face here are limited materials, termites, hot humidity, salt spray, and the heat. The heat is a huge thing. So to combine the issues and the opportunities, we can really work out everything, from a small home to a large building

able," said McPhetres.

According to McPhetres, Rolluda Architects is one of the larger minority firms in Seattle with a diverse staff dedicated to intro-

ducing sustainable concepts in structural designs.

When McPhetres told Alex Rolluda, the principal architect in the firm, about Saipan, he was very interested to know more about the place that they flew

here last month to meet with people, introduce their firm, and offer their services.

"The goal is to bring sustainability and community oriented designs to Micronesia, particularly in the Marianas," McPhetres said.

McPhetres added that he hopes to bring back to Saipan the knowledge and experience he gained from working for the Seattle firm.

New president

Michael Brazel was sworn yesterday in by Superior Court As-

that will be more efficient, more sociate Judge and Rotarian Perry comfortable and more afford-Inos as the new Rotary President for 2010 - 2011.

Brazel was at an international conference in the U.S. when the Rotary installed its new officers on June 29 at Pacific Islands Club.

Brazel said he plans to secure funding for the Kagman playground project during his term. If the project does not push through during his term, Brazel vows to promote the project to the next set of officers.

As president, Brazel hopes to work on what his fellow Rotarians are passionate about so they can do something for the community as a group.

"I want to try and reach out and find out what they want to do instead of just having everybody do what I want to do," he said.

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SIS senior named National Merit Scholarship winner

Selyna Leon Guerrero, a senior at Saipan International School, the only National Merit Scholar finalist from the CNMI for the 2009-2010 school year, has been selected as a National Merit Scholarship winner.

National Merit Scholarship finalists represent the top 15,000 students nationwide out of more than 1.5 million who take a standardized test called the PSAT. Scholarship winners are judged on academic accomplishments, standardized test scores, leadership ability, and contributions to the school and community.

Leon Guerrero had to submit a detailed application including writing an essay and describing contributions and leadership activities in the community. She

joins over 2,800 other collegesponsored award recipients who will be provided between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study.

Leon Guerrero will likely pursue a degree in the field of physics and will be attending Knox College, a prestigious institution in Galesburg, Illinois. Knox College has been a constant presence amongst the top liberal arts colleges in college magazines such as The Princeton Review and 'America's Best Colleges' in U.S. News & World Report.

Over the past 55 years, more than 275,000 young men and women have won the National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$970 million. (Dencio Manglona)

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TOYOTA

'Book about CNMI education system's history a good reference for teachers'

Rita A. Sablan described A His-Educational System: Implications for Teacher Education as a good reference book for teachers and educators.

Written by Ramon de los Santos, the book recounts the experience of educators in Micronesia and the Marianas from the '50s through the '90s. The book was part of his doctoral degree requirement at the University of New Mexico.

During last week's PSS professional development training for school administrators and program managers, each participant was given a copy of the publication for review and reference.

As for the possibility of making it a standard textbook for stu-

Education Commissioner Dr. dents, Sablan said the Board of Education is the agency that mantory of the Northern Marianas dates what students must learn through the approved curriculum.

"That's the board decision and not my decision. The board mandates me to have a clear standard and benchmark for our students," said Sablan

De los Santos believes all schoolteachers should have a copy of the book and perhaps make it a reading requirement for all students majoring in education at the Northern Marianas College.

He earlier told Saipan Tribune that a history of teacher's development and training was limited for people in the Marianas to understand what went on during the Spanish, German, Japanese, and American periods. (Moneth Deposa)

NMC scrambles to resolve audit findings

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is now scrambling to resolve the findings of its audit reports after the Western Association of Schools and Colleges cited these as among the reasons why the college was slapped with show-cause sanctions.

The Board of Regents' fiscal and legislative committee yesterday examined the audit reports in fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009 and called for the submission of a matrix that will summarize all the findings. The matrix will show which fiscal year audit report has been addressed and which one is outstanding.

Committee head Frank Rabauliman said the matrix will serve as a clear guideline to determine the areas NMC needs to resolve.

GOVT

From Page 1

funds from each of the respective delegations' funding sources such as poker and pachinko fees.

The other is for the Tinian and Rota Legislative Delegations to pass local bills to legislate needed appropriations from their respective funding sources, such as poker and pachinko fees.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the reprogramming of funds is an option that is available through the governor's declaration of a state of emergency last week.

"However, pending discussions with all the parties involved, there is still no decision pertaining to whether fund will be reprogrammed and how much will be reprogrammed," he told Saipan Tribune when asked for comment.

Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said on Tinian alone, there's some \$120,000 needed to pay for the SEAS nurses and auxiliary staff at least until the end of Fiscal Year 2010.

"The Tinian leadership is confident that we will be able to address this matter with the help of all parties concerned. The government will still have to negotiate with SEAS to continue employing these nurses for the Tinian Health Center," Hofschneider said.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), at the same time, asked Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday for an update on the status of Rota and Tinian nurses.

"Due to continued non- or partial payment, the [Rota] nurses terminated their employment services with SEAS. Now, the nurses are willing to formalize a new employment contract directly with the CNMI government," Taimanao told Villagomez

But other lawmakers said the Rota and Tinian Health Centers could not directly hire nurses, only the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan.

Besides delayed wages and partial payment of wages, the nurses' employment statuses are in limbo because of a Department of Labor decision permanently barring SEAS from hiring or employing workers.

Fitial declared a state of emergency for the CNMI on Tuesday last week to suspend laws and rules and allow the reprogramming of funds to avert a nursing crisis on Rota and Tinian.

He also approved the participation of accreditation liaison officer Galvin Deleon Guerrero, via teleconference, to shed light on specific areas in the financial report that need to be addressed.

Deleon Guerrero explained that the committee has to focus on the financial integrity of the college, including unaddressed findings in audit reports and the college's autonomy in terms of using its budget.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that corrective plans for the recent audit findings are now being finalized by management and would soon be shared with the board.

The passage of legislation that clarifies NMC's autonomy was also pushed by regent Andrew Orsini, to address the government's alleged interference with the college, as cited in the commission report.

local government, Deleon Guerrero explained that NMC must have sole authority on the use of its funds.

NMC—with or without budget cuts-must maintain its autonomy in how it uses its budget, he said.

The zeroing out of key positions by the governor, Deleon Guerrero said, is also not permissible.

Since last week, meetings have been ongoing at the college-all aimed at addressing WASC's 10 recommendations.

'Audit findings'

The college's financial staff yesterday disclosed that the questioned costs indicated in the college audit reports are concerns that can still be addressed and resolved.

"It's a matter of the federal granting agency accepting it...or we have adding that questioned costs are mainly due to the "disparity" between federal and local regulation.

They also described the matter as "forgivable" in many instances.

"Deficiencies" cited in the audit report are mainly violations of the college's own procurement policies and accounting procedures, they said, which could be revisited by the board for future audits.

It was also learned that audit reports for 2007 and 2008 were completed on time while the FY 2009 audit was presented to the committee yesterday.

Compared to FYs 2007 and 2008 audit reports, the FY 2009 audit did not have an exit conference with auditors. As a result, NMC wasn't given an opportunity to dispute the findings before the report was completed.

Deloitte & Touche has been conduct-

Though it receives a budget from the to pay," said NMC's chief accountant, ing NMC's audit report since 2000. Free seminar on diabetes starts at public library

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Two pharmacy interns from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Pharmacy will conduct a free seminar that

aims to raise awareness about diabetes. Erika Miyahira and Danita Henley, fourth year pharmacy students, will conduct a free seminar at the library dubbed "Hinemlo' - Malawasch 4 Life: Self-Management Tools for Healthy Living."

The free seminar is a collaboration of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, PHI Pharmacy, the University of Hawai'i College of Pharmacy, and the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition.

The seminar, which begins today at 5:30pm to 7pm, will run for four consecutive Wednesdays.

According to Miyahira, Asians, Native Americans, African-Americans and Hawaiians are at higher risk for diabetes. Since the population on Saipan is mostly Asians, there is a high prevalence of this condition on the island.

Henley also noticed that people on Saipan do not take their medications regularly and do not seem to be concerned about nutrition and exercise.

Miyahira said the seminar aims to inform the public about the basics of diabetes. The seminar will talk about the need to change one's eating habits and exercise regularly.

Henley added that they hope to em-

power the public, particularly those affected by diabetes, by discussing the importance of living a healthy lifestyle

John Oliver DLR Gonzales, executive director of Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, is encouraging everyone to avail of the free seminar and participate in various activities of the public library.



NEW PRESIDENT

Rotary Club of Saipan president Michael Brazel is sworn in by Superior Court Associate Judge and fellow Rotarian Perry Inos during yesterday's Rotary Meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant.

TRIPLE J

From Page 1

"We think there are opportunities even during these times. ... This project is the first of its kind that will offer opportunities to residents to live in quality housing within convenient proximity to the beach, schools, church, stores and other facilities," Triple J executive Michael S. Sablan told Saipan Tribune in a phone interview yesterday.

Called the Sandy Beach Homes and located near the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel, the project is located on five parcels of land with a total area of 4,252 square meters.

Sablan, Triple J's representative for the Sandy Beach Homes project, said Triple J initially planned for one apartment building with 60 three-bedroom apartment units.

But he said this has been revised to two buildings with six floors, as well as one parking floor, each.

Because the buildings exceed the 48 feet height limit, Sablan said the Saipan Zoning Office will still have to decide whether to approve a conditional use permit. The height of the proposed building is 74 feet.

The Zoning Office held a public hearing Monday night on Triple J's project, which received strong support from those who attended it.

Today, the project will undergo a separate public hearing, this time to be conducted by Coastal Resources Management Agency Officials.

Triple J has yet to get the approvals and permits from different CNMI government agencies, including the Saipan Zoning Office, the Division of Environmental Quality, the Historic Preservation Office, the Coastal Resources Management, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Department of Commerce.

Rita C. Chong-Dela Cruz, director of CRM, said in a separate phone interview that CRM officials will still have to determine whether the project calls for a minor permit or a major siting permit.

If everything falls into place, Sablan said Triple J expects to have a groundbreaking in October this year.

"Our target project completion is within two to three years," he added.

Each of the three-bedroom, onebathroom unit at the Sandy Beach Homes will have 1,300 to 1,400 net square feet, plus balcony with ocean view. The apartment will be serviced by elevators and stairs.

Sablan said Triple J will make the apartment buildings as "green" or environment-friendly and energy efficient as possible.

Triple J's \$12 million project is also expected to provide economic stimulus for the CNMI, especially during these tough economic times.

Triple J Saipan Inc. is one of the companies under Triple J Enterprises Inc., which has over 700 employees throughout the Pacific and has consistently ranked as one of the top companies in Micronesia. It has offices and businesses on Saipan; Guam; Palau; Majuro; Ebeye; Oakland, California; Shanghai, China; and Hakuba, Japan.

In early 2009, Triple J acquired majority ownership of the famous Tony Roma's and Capricciosa restaurants in Garapan, and opened a new store called Super Fresh Market.

Robert H. Jones, president and chief executive officer of Triple J Enterprises Inc., earlier said "every challenge creates an opportunity," referring to the bold moves by Triple J at a time when many businesses are either cutting down their operations or shutting down.

PEOPLE

From Page 1

outstanding deficiencies."

The Fitial administration expects the release of refund checks—as well as the rebate checks laterwill spur spending and stimulate the economy.

Alice Concepcion, a government employee, said she was hoping to get her refund check but she didn't get any.

"But it's alright. Maybe I will be in the next batch. My mom got hers," she said, holding the envelope she took out from her mailbox.

Concepcion said once she gets her check, she will use it for advance payment of bills.

"That's because we never know when we'll have a payless payday," she added.

Rosanna Abadilla, who has been a foreign contract worker in the CNMI for 17 years, said she and her husband also received their combined \$800.07 but they will be saving it for her husband's medical operation.

Abadilla went to the post office with her 7-year-old daughter Franchesca.

"My daughter said, 'we're very lucky', when we get the check today," she added.

Eddie Caranzo, a businessman on Saipan for 30 years, said he will put his refund on his savings. He also went to the post office to get his 14 employees' federal stimulus checks.

People found it hard to find available parking spaces outside the U.S. Post Office in Chalan Kanoa, especially during lunch hours when a surge of people came in.

Boy Ching, also a businessman, said he didn't get his refund check, but his employees got their federal stimulus checks.

"I come here at the post office every Tuesday and Saturday because that's when there are not a lot of people, except today because of the newspaper report that the refund and stimulus checks are out," he said.

Luzette Pasana, a sales representative, said she will also save whatever amount she gets. "But I didn't get my check today," she said.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer.

It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

Rebate checks of some \$5 million will be mailed out starting later this month.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Elov S. Inos repeatedly said in the past that rebate and refund checks will be issued on time this year, and that these funds will not be touched despite problems with payroll and utility payments.

The CNMI government also submitted some \$3 million in advanced child tax credit certification to the U.S. Treasury on Monday. The checks are expected to be released a few weeks from now.

Delinquent taxpayers will not receive their refund checks until they settle their outstanding taxes due the CNMI government.

ATV park, building plans garner support in public hearing

By CLARISSA V. DAVID

Majority of the more than 40 individuals that attended the Commonwealth Zoning Board's July 12 public hearing on the construction of an outdoor ATV amusement field in Kannat Tabla and a high-end apartment building in Chalan Kanoa have expressed support for the projects, according to Zoning Board officials.

Star 1 Corporation, doing business as Star ATV Tracking, wants to build an outdoor amusement area in Kannat Tabla, and is seeking a conditional use permit since the place is classified as a rural zone.

Triple J Saipan Inc., doing business as Sandy Beach Homes, is seeking a conditional use permit for its project since the height of the proposed apartment building is 74 feet, exceeding the standard height of 48 feet.

ing support [during the public hearing]," according to acting Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro.

Ogumoro said the supporters believe that the two businesses will help stimulate Saipan's waning economy.

She said there were some who expressed concerns about the impact of these two businesses in their vicinity. A few said the existence of an ATV tracking business could create possible pollution and runoff problems in the area while the apartment business may spoil the vicinity used by the residents for recreational purposes.

Ogumoro said the board will take into account the comments raised when the board meets on July 20.

Ogumoro said a conditional use project will only be allowed if a public hearing has

"There was an overwhelm- been conducted and the board has reviewed the proposed conditional use.

> She said they conduct public hearings to mitigate issues such as pollution, noise, and traffic

that might impact the affected neighborhood, adjacent districts, as well as the environment.

The Division of Environmental Quality, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Coastal Resources Management, Department of Public Lands, and the Department of Public Works, were represented during the well-attended public hearing, said Ogumoro.

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, Rep. Stanley T. Torres, and all members of the Zoning Board were also present at the hearing.

Man allegedly beats up another, assaults 2 cops

The "NEW" ToothWorks Dental Clinic

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A man alleged to be drunk reportedly beat up another and assaulted two police officers who responded to the scene in Tanapag Saturday night.

Winfred Atalig Pua, 37, was arrested for assault and battery, resisting arrest, obstruction of justice, and disturbing the peace.

Bail was set at \$3,250 cash. Pua was set to appear in court yesterday afternoon for his initial appearance.

Detective Buddy S. Igitol stated in his report that earlier that Saturday, Pua, his girlfriend Annette Castro, and Sheldon Kaainoa were drinking at Pau Pau Beach.

Due to a misunderstanding, Pua allegedly hit Kaainoa in the face several times.

Igitol said he and several other police officers responded to the Sebastian Building in Tanapag at 8:35pm after a disturbance

of Public Safety.

Igitol said when they arrived at the scene, he saw Pua leaning on a pickup truck at the parking lot of Candis Poker. A few feet away, Castro was comforting Kaainoa.

When Igitol asked what was going on, Pua allegedly replied in an angry tone.

Igitol said Castro approached and asked to allow her to bring Pua to their room because they were all drunk. Pua, however,

was reported to the Department began yelling that he wanted to fight and kill him, Igitol said.

> Two other police officers cut in front in an attempt to stop Pua from getting closer to Igitol.

Igitol said Pua struggled, prompting them to secure him in handcuffs. Igitol said Pua kicked him in the abdomen and threatened to kill him.

Pua also hit the groin of Police Officer Abraham Villagomez with his knee as the officer was escorting the defendant to his police vehicle.

Criminal case dismissed after main witness died

A criminal case against two persons was dismissed yesterday after the prosecution told the court that its principal witness had died.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman dismissed the criminal case against Glenn Taman Rios and Surella O. Rios.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Glenn Rios with assault and battery for repeatedly punching Vincent Palacios in the presence of a child on Jan. 18, 2009. Surella Rios was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon for attacking Palacios with a knife that same day.

The bench trial for Glenn Rios was supposedly set for today. Surella Rios was not served

with the summons as she could not be not located, according to court papers.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher, who filed the motion not to proceed with the case on Monday, said the main witness, whose testimony was necessary to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt, had died. He did not specify how the witness died.

"While other witnesses are available, it is clear that the Commonwealth will not be able to prove this case beyond a reasonable doubt without this testimony," Gallagher said.

In the absence of this evidence, he said the government cannot proceed with the trial. (Ferdie de la Torre)





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DFS photo exhibit showcases NMI's endangered birds

By DENCIO MANGLONA STUDENT INTERN

Tourists browsing through merchandise at the Duty Free Galleria Saipan are currently being treated to a photo exhibit featuring some of the CNMI's endangered birds.

Veteran nature photographer Kurt Baungartner, in coordination with the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, came up with the exhibit to support the Micronesian Challenge, a preservation effort by Micronesian territories to preserve their natural resources. In this case, the culturally essential birds of the CNMI.

"We wanted to showcase the wildlife of Saipan," said DFS assistant general manager Vicente Babauta.

The DFS exhibit displays just a few of the photos taken by Baumgartner and includes the Nightingale Reed Warbler and Golden White-eye birds.

Baumgartner's contribution to MINA's efforts in the Micronesian Challenge was well received by the MINA board, according to board member Agnes

A picture of a Micronesian starling, taken by veteran nature photographer Kurt Baungartner, is currently on display at the DFS Galleria.

"Sam" Sablan. MINA received numerous fauna photographs from Baumgartner earlier this year and, together with his wife, arranged for them to be displayed to promote public preservation awareness.

"We're catching up with FSM [Federated States of Micronesia] and because of this [contribution], the people of Saipan,"

Sablan said.

Copies of the photographs are currently available for purchase and proceeds will fund MINA projects.

MINA members got the chance to look at the photos at the organization's annual membership meeting last April this year.

Baumgartner is a long-time conservationist photographer

and has been a member of MINA since the nature organization's inception in May 2005. His photos have been featured in magazines such as the National Geographic.

The exhibit displayed at DFS will be moved around to other public areas, according to Sablan, with the Northern Marianas College being the next venue.

Gualo Rai house burglarized after family left for 3 hours

A family left their home in at 11pm, to discover that their Gualo Rai for just three hours and returned home to find it already burglarized, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

Several jewelry pieces valued at over \$1,000 were stolen, said DPS acting spokesman Jason Tarkong. Other items stolen were a CD player worth \$200, a pink piggy bank, and \$75 cash.

Tarkong said the suspect or suspects left a crow bar at the scene.

He said the incident happened on June 30

Police learned that the family left home at 8pm and returned

home had been burglarized.

The window type air-conditioning unit in one of the rooms had been pushed in from the outside.

"The suspect[s] used this as their point of entry to commit the crime," Tarkong said.

"Anyone having information about this crime or any other crime is asked to call DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau at 664-9042. Should you want to remain anonymous, please call the Crime Stoppers Hotline at 234-7272," Tarkong said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

PSS inks \$800K contract for professional dev't of teachers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

The Public School System has signed an \$800,000 contract with the Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning, McREL, for the professional development sessions of its teachers and school leaders.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan said Friday that the company will provide professional development trainings for PSS employees on three islands.

Funding for the contract will be sourced from federal monies, according to Sablan.

"McREL is not the only experts we're consulting for our schools...we put out [requests for proposal] for different kinds of consultan[cy] work and they were one of the organizations that responded," she told Saipan Tribune.

The contract will start next month, said Bryan Goodwin, vice president for communications and marketing for McREL.

"The \$800,000 contract, that is for a kickoff session to be held in August with all of the schools on the island, plus intensive work in six to seven schools throughout the coming school year, all built on our 'Success in Sight' approach to school improvement," said Goodwin.

"Success in Sight" is a program that helps schools identify small improvements that generate quick wins, building to ever larger, more comprehensive schoolwide reform efforts.

McREL's Web site states the program will start with school data, helping unearth root causes of performance gaps; underlying assumptions and beliefs; and attitudes, values and expectations that drive decisions and behaviors.

Saipan Tribune learned that Danette Parsley, a senior director at McREL, will lead the work on Saipan next month.

Last week, McREL's Greg Cameron and David Rease conducted a four-day professional development training for 65 school leaders and program managers at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

McREL will open a center in Hawaii to expand its services to the Pacific Region.



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian summer program to show *Alice in Wonderland*

The Tinian Public Library, Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is inviting the Tinian community and visitors to the island this Saturday to the Saturday summer outdoor film, part of the Tinian Summer Books and Films Series.

The film shown will be *Alice in Wonderland* directed by Tim Burton, and based on the book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, starting at 7pm on Saturday, July 17, at the Kammer Beach Main Pavilion. The event is free of charge, and open to the public. *(PR)*

Kagman Elementary School

The "Take Home Summer Backpack" program has arrived. Parents and guardians are required to attend a one-hour training session on how to use these educational materials at home during the summer break. Your child will get the "Take Home Summer Backpack" provided the parent or the

guardian attends the training on any of the following schedule:

- July 14, 2010: Kindergarten and 1st grade, 9am-10am, cafeteria; 2nd and 3rd grade, 2pm-3pm, cafeteria
- July 15, 2010: 4th and 5th grade, 9-10am, cafeteria. Repeat for any parents that have not attended any of the session is at 2pm-3pm, cafeteria. (*PR*)

Tinian public hearing rescheduled

The public hearing on long-term status of guest workers in the CNMI that was scheduled for today, July 14, 2010, on Tinian has been rescheduled to Friday, July 23, 2010, 6pm-9pm, Tinian Elementary School cafeteria. Written comments may be submitted to the Office of Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider located at the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial building, Capital Hill, Saipan before or during the public hearing. Oral testimony may be presented during the public hearing. If you wish to present oral testimony, inform

Hofschneider's office no later than 24 hours prior to the public hearing. (*PR*)

Calling on all court translator, interpreters

The CNMI Superior Court is in the process of updating its list of translators and interpreters. Those who are on the Superior Court's list of translators and interpreters or are interested in being on the court's list are being asked to visit the Office of the Clerk of Court at the Court House on Beach Road in Susupe and pick up an application form

A person who has previously performed translation or interpretation services for the court but who has not reregistered in the last 30 days is being asked to also file an application to be certified by the court. New applicants with foreign language skills are encouraged to apply. Bring a copy of one's photo ID Application processing is free.

For more information ask for Elsa Duenas-Nieto or Julie Ilo when contacting the Office of the Clerk of Court at 236-9765. (*PR*)

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 14, 1999

Kagman school contractor vows to expedite project

Pac United Corp., the contractor for the Public School System's new CIP project, promised yesterday to expedite the construction of Kagman Elementary School. Deng Junhua, president of Pac United, said his company has started addressing the concerns of PSS and the Department of Public Works, specifically the quality of construction materials. "We admit that the project is facing delay, but this is because of so many factors that we should have considered when we started working on the project," Deng said. PSS earlier warned to terminate Pac United Corp.'s contract if it doesn't improve its pace and performance.

Senate wants to waive Tinian ferry head tax

A measure under way in the Senate will seek waiver on passenger fee imposed on the ferry between Tinian and Saipan in efforts to assist shipping companies and help spur the island's economy. Sen. Herman M. Manglona has offered Senate Bill 11-151 in an attempt to forbid the Commonwealth Ports Authority from collecting a \$4.50 regulatory passenger fee at the Saipan seaport. The prohibition will be effective once the proposal becomes a law until September 30 next year, delaying the CPA plan to set up its own collection system to receive the fee immediately from passengers disembarking at the port in Puerto Rico.

July 14, 2000

House to review changes to Omnibus bill

The Omnibus Labor and Business Reform Act may go through another round of review in the House of Representatives to consider amendments made by the Senate, according to acting Speaker Oscar M. Babauta. He also raised the possibility of a bicameral conference if the lower house rejects the changes to HB 12-39 as he stressed the need to gauge its impact to the business community. "If we are convinced that [business leaders] are very content, we will proceed with the passage and we'll handle the other reform measures that were omitted by the Senate," Mr. Babauta told reporters in an interview yesterday.

Initial SAT9 results show improvement in students

Preliminary results of this year's Stanford Achievement Test 9th Edition indicate "movement" within Public School System, as Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos noted a remarkable improvement in students' performance based on increased test scores. "I am very excited because this means there's improvement in teaching and learning. I think our students are taking steps in the right direction," said the commissioner. Test scores predominantly point to an increase especially on areas where students recorded low during the past year, according to Dr. Inos. PSS conducted the 1999-2000 SAT9 to benchmark grade levels which included grades 3, 5, 8, 10, and 11. Fourth grade levels were also tested as information gathered from the test would be helpful toward the Comprehensive Student Accountability Plan, which is being developed locally.

July 14, 2003

DEQ: CUC complying with orders

The Division of Environmental Quality said Friday that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been complying with its order to bring the utility firm in compliance with drinking water regulations. DEQ director John I. Castro Jr. said the CUC has been submitting the documents required of it by the compliance order to correct its drinking water violations. "They have been submitting but [they are] not compliant with dates," Castro said. Romy G. Urbien, an environmental specialist at the DEQ's Safe Drinking Water Program, gauged CUC's compliance as "90 to 95 percent."

USDE urged to check WASC

Unsatisfied with the explanation given by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, a Saipan lawmaker has now called on U.S. Department of Education Secretary Rod Paige to intervene and look at the commission's "unsubstantiated threats of sanctions and conflicting opinions" on issues relating to the Northern Marianas College. In a three-page June 11 letter, House Ways And Means Committee chair Rep. Stanley Torres called on Paige to intervene in what he described as a "distressful situation" at NMC. The lawmaker, who has been critical of the present NMC leadership, said the USDE's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity may be able to assist on his concerns.

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society and the Judiciary present

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Professor Robert Desiderio Former Dean, University of New Mexico

School of Law, Albuquerque, NM

July 15, 2010 Thursday 11:30AM

Hillblom Law Library, Guma' Hustisia, Susupe Lecture on Business Ethics

Professor Robert Desiderio

July 16, 2010 Friday 12 noon

Hillblom Law Library, Guma' Hustisia, Susupe

"The Modern Constitution"

Professor Rose Villazor and Professor Robert Desiderio

This program is supported in part by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Any view, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this program are those of the participants and do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities or the NMI Humanities Council.

Ernest certified as global HR professional

Malou Ernest, Human Resource director of Tan Holdings, recently earned certification as a Global

Professional in Human Resources, making her one of only a few hundreds worldwide to have earned the distinction.

The certification, awarded by the HR Certification Insti-Ernest tute, signifies that Ernest possesses the theoretical knowledge and practical experience in international human resource management necessary to pass a rigorous examination demonstrating a mastery of the field.

The GPHR exam assesses the international HR body of knowledge and is intended for HR professionals who develop and implement global HR strategies, manage HR operations overseas and oversee international assignment management.

other HR professionals worldwide had earned the GPHR cer-

tification. The HR Certification Institute awards two other levels of certification: Professional in Human Resources and Senior Professional in Hu-

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As of April 2010, only 932 HR principles," said executive director Mary Power, CAE.

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The HR Certification Institute is the credentialing body for human resource professionals and is affiliated with the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest organization dedicated exclusively to the human resource profession. (PR)

SHRM meeting to tackle changes in EEO law

An official of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission will be the guest speaker of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter during its July general membership lunch meeting tomorrow,

Club Charley's Cabaret, from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Gregory L. McClinton, a senior trial attorney for EEOC's Honolulu Office, will talk about changes to the Equal Employment Opportunity Law that af-July 15, at the Pacific Islands fect the CNMI. (SHRM)



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10 WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBE

AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

US case against Arizona law

n filing its long-awaited suit to block implementation of Arizona's harsh new immigration law, the Justice Department has taken a necessary step to reassert federal authority over immigration enforcement. The Obama administration rightly argues that states cannot be permitted to concoct their own rules and regulations on this issue to suit local needs and local politics, no matter how frustrated they are with the federal government. Allowing states to do so would result in a mishmash of laws handicapping Washington's ability to do its job.

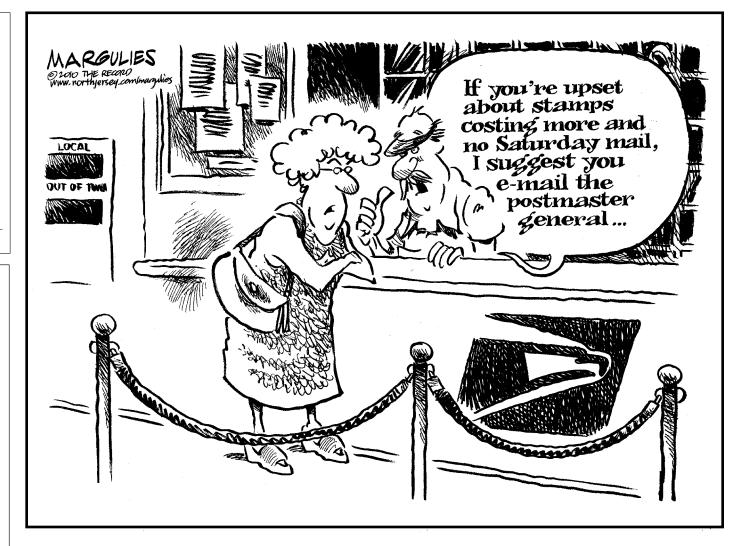
Arizona officials have argued that the state is merely seeking to enforce federal law. But that's not quite right. The new Arizona law, scheduled to take effect July 29, makes it a crime for undocumented immigrants to be in Arizona and requires noncitizens who are in the country legally to carry registration papers with them at all times. It also requires police to check the immigration status of people who are stopped for other reasons if they are "reasonably suspected" of being in the country illegally. But, as the administration notes, being an illegal immigrant is not a federal crime: "Congress has affirmatively decided that unlawful presence—standing alone—should not subject an alien to criminal penalties and incarceration." Deportation by the U.S. government, yes; arrest by civil authorities, no.

Furthermore, the United States does not have the wherewithal to deport 11 million people. So federal policy prioritizes the capture, prosecution and deportation of illegal immigrants who threaten national security or who are dangerous or criminal. Arizona's law could force the U.S. government to redirect its efforts to processing untold numbers of illegal immigrants discovered by the police for, say, driving with a broken tail light or jaywalking. What's more, thousands of immigrants are legally present in the U.S. but do not possess federal registration papers, such as those who have applied for asylum, or are applying for special visas as victims of trafficking or a violent crime. Arresting them would violate federal policy.

Immigration foes don't believe the government has any interest in halting illegal immigration, and have responded to U.S. policy with simplistic slogans such as "What part of illegal don't you understand?" and "Illegal is a crime." But in fact, the situation isn't simple at all. Consider, for example, our relationship with Mexico. As the suit points out, migration flow cannot easily be teased out from the web of interconnecting political, socioeconomic and diplomatic concerns. Trade between the two countries averages \$1 billion a day; Mexico is the third-largest supplier of oil to the U.S., and together we combat drug and human trafficking. How we handle immigration will affect these and other issues and is therefore best handled by the federal government.

Admittedly, there is a disconnect between the government's bold assertions of federal authority in the complaint and its contradictory, often confusing policy. For example, the government doesn't just deport criminals, or even mostly criminals. In reality, it apprehends and deports thousands of ordinary people, just as Arizona is threatening to do. Given such inconsistencies, it is understandable that, increasingly, states are growing frustrated and taking matters into their own legislatures. On Tuesday, the government made a clear case for control of immigration policy; now it needs to actually implement one.

(c) 2010, Los Angeles Times



The boomer defection

his is turning into a tough election year for Democrats, and most of the reasons are familiar: The economy is stalled, President Obama's popularity is sagging and voters are in an anti-incumbent mood. There's an "enthusiasm gap" too. Republican voters are fired up and ready to vote, while liberals are dispirited.

Now add one more factor: a new generation gap. Voters over the age of 50 are leaning increasingly Republican, according to recent polling—and that includes members of the giant baby boom generation between 50 and 64.

A Pew Research poll released last week found that most voters over 50 say they favor the Republicans in November's congressional election. Voters in their 30s and 40s were evenly split; voters younger than 30 favored the Democrats. That's a big problem for Democrats, in two ways.

First, older voters are a bloc the party doesn't want to lose. They turn out on Election Day more consistently than younger voters—especially in a non-presidential election, like this year's. About two-thirds of November's voters will be 50 or older.

Second, the defections may reflect a deeper, longer-term trend: The baby boom generation appears to be growing more conservative as it ages.

Democrats already knew they had trouble with voters over the age of 65. Those voters—the true senior citizens—were the only age group that John McCain carried in the presidential election of 2008.

But the baby boomers—the cohort from 50 to 64—had been in the Democrats' grasp. Boomers voted for Obama in 2008. They voted strongly for Democrats in the congressional election of 2006. (They voted for George W. Bush in 2004, but only by a narrow margin—unlike the more conservative 65-plus voters.)

Now, though, many of the boomers who voted for Obama are moving into the Republican column—and behaving (or at least answering survey questions) just like the older cohort.

"There's evidence that those two generations, the early boomers and the seniors, may be converging," said Andrew Kohut, Pew's director. "If it holds up—and we'll see in November—that could be a significant change."

Those "early boomers," born between 1946 and 1960, reached adulthood in the 1960s and '70s—the era of the Vietnam War and the counterculture. According to one prevailing theory of voter behavior, their first political experiences should have stamped them for life. They started out voting mostly for Democrats; they helped elect one of their own, Bill Clinton, to two terms in the White House.

Why are they moving? One answer, political strategists from both parties say, is that older voters are worried—about the economy, the federal deficit and the prospect of rising taxes. And as they age, they're worried that Obama's health-care law could harm Medicare, even though the president has promised it won't.

Polls taken during the healthcare debate last year found that se-

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him e-mail at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

age baby boomers, who became increasingly negative.
"Older voters are worried that the quality of their healthcare could decline," said David Winston, a Republican pollster. "That opens a door where they're willing to listen to Republicans. It's a huge opportunity."

nior citizens over 65 were more strongly opposed to the plan than

any other age group—but over time, they were joined by middle-

Republicans are seizing it by casting themselves as defenders of Medicare, a Democratic initiative their party once opposed. They're charging that \$523 million in Medicare spending cuts under the new law will hurt medical care for senior citizens.

Obama and his aides are fighting back, of course. They plan to spend much of the summer promoting more popular aspects of the health-care law, including the \$250 checks they began mailing in June to Medicare patients who fall into the "doughnut hole" limit on drug benefits. They've even enlisted allies outside the government to raise \$125 million for a campaign to promote the health-care reform package. Polls show that the law's popularity is slowly inching upward—but not among most older voters yet.

And health care is merely this year's battle. If those millions of baby boomers continue drifting rightward, Democrats will have a problem that extends well beyond November's congressional election.

"There's a long-running debate," noted Democratic pollster Mark Mellman. "Are political views a product of voters' generational experience or of their place in the life cycle?

"To the extent that it's a product of their place in the life cycle, (older voters) are beginning to look a lot like their parents," he said. "They are becoming more conservative over time—more conservative on economic issues but more liberal than their parents on social issues."

Which leaves Democrats with two options for responding to the shifting generational wind. One is to trim their sails—to chart a more conservative course and respond to aging voters' fears about healthcare and taxes and the deficit. (Some are trying to do that now.) The other is to rely on the passage of time—to wait for an influx of younger people and minority voters to change the electorate in their direction. That might work, but not by this November.

Of course, the Republicans have problems too. But that's for another column—coming soon.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What's the purpose of news?

hat do the World Cup, the Lebron James decision, the BP oil spill, and Roman Polansky have in common? If you said current news items during the first week of July 2010, you'd be correct.

Next question: How does knowing about these "news" items help you live a better life? Stumped? Do you see where I'm going with this?

Now, I'm not saying that these pieces of information are useless. These are all good things to know for some people, maybe even many people. If you are involved in the Polansky case, for instance; if you make a living in the Gulf region, bet money on the World Cup, or, if you're Lebron's accountant, these are all developments you should know about. I suggest, however, that for the vast majority of people, the importance of what currently qualifies as "newsworthy" information in our lives is questionable at best. So, why do people invest so much importance on listening to, reading, or watching "news"? Are they getting something out of it that defies observation and explanation? To answer that question for yourself, I'll share with you my own personal beliefs that inform my decision to NOT follow the news. I know it's a radical idea from the fringe, but hear me out. (That's why you read this column, is it not? I mean if both of us-you and I-thought exactly the same way about everything, then one of us would be unnecessary!)

MY PHILOSOPHY

I have a philosophy. I've always believed (as mentioned before in this column) that the three most important questions to every human being are:

- 1. Who am I?
- 2. Why am I here?
- 3. How shall I survive?

Many of us spend at least an hour every single day tuning in to "the news." In addition, many of us spend as many as 16 years (some even more) of our lives obtaining an education. And billions of us hand over control of our thoughts and behavior to religious traditions.

With all this time and energy, it seems fair to expect that news, education and religion—pursuits that take up so much of our time and attention—should help us answer life's important questions, and concerns, don't you think?

THE DANGER WITH DISTRACTION

I also believe that anything I spend my time doing should have some reason or purpose. Now, don't get me wrong. Entertainment, pleasure, hobbies, etc, are all valid reasons for doing a thing. Distraction is as valid as reason as any other. And there's nothing wrong—in my opinion—with watching, reading, or listening to the news for distraction, for entertainment, or if it gives you pleasure.

The danger with entertainment, however, is that every story—

from comedy to drama, to horror—creates an effect by design. So, what is that effect? When you go to see a movie in a darkened theater, even though the emotions can be just as powerful, there's a certain amount of detachment you can achieve once the lights come on. With "news," however, the images and ideas have an added impact of being real, and images and thoughts of war, violence, murder, rape, terrorism, etc., exist and continue during every waking moment.

AN AGENDA

Even if you tell me that you follow the news because you simply want to be "informed," I say that's a good thing. However, I believe most people delude themselves into believing how informed they really are becoming. They are actually being informed in a biased, selective and manipulative sense.

We all know that in a half-hour newscast, that there is a world of "news" that's never reported. There are rallies for world peace that never make the news. There are battles against corporate exploitation that go unreported. There are positive stories of triumph that are missing from the headlines. So the news that is reported is obviously someone's choice of what to call "news." I suggest to you that behind every decision a producer makes of what to include in a newscast, or that an editor makes of what to include in a newspaper or Web site, exists an agenda.

I won't get into a discussion of what that agenda might be, I'll simply suggest to you something you already know: that your mental, emotional, and even physical state after consuming a bit of "news" is affected by what you read, listen, or see. After consuming a bit of "news" you might feel (a) uplifted, (b) neutral, or (c) depressed (as well as angry, fearful, tired, sick, etc., and every emotion in between.)

So, my third belief is that everything I expose myself to—every person, every idea, every image, every sound—has an effect on my being. So, I've already made the decision to limit my exposure to what others deem to be "news."

THE NEWS TEST

By the time you're exposed to some information that an editor or producer has decided is news, it's already too late. However, here is a brief test to determine if what you've been accepting as "news" really qualifies (based on my belief no. 1)

1. Has this information helped me discover who I am, why am I here, or how I shall survive?

If you answer no to this question, then this bit of information might qualify as simply neutral, distraction, or perhaps even enter-

2. Is the quality of my life appreciably affected by knowing this news?

Information can still not be news, but help the quality of your life, after all. However, if you answer no to this question, then the

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bit of information in question may not be neutral, it might qualify as entertainment.

3. How do I feel now that I know this information?

If you feel discouraged, fearful, bitter, angry, defeated, hopeless, resentful, then this information is more than merely useless, it is potentially destructive, because how can you improve your situation, your relationships, your world, and your life—and for that matter, how can you turn your passion into profit—if you are constantly consuming ideas and images that make you feel discouraged, and hopeless?

WHAT'S THE POINT?

If you believe there is (or should be) more to life than simply work and distraction; if you believe that the things you spend your time doing should have a purpose or reason; if you believe that the ideas, sounds and images you allow into your mind have an effect on your mental, emotional, and physical states; further, if you accept that everyone has an agenda which may not coincide with yours (BP's agenda is different than yours); if you can't depend on people or corporations with competing or contrary agendas to filter and interpret "the news" for you, then it follows that you should be vigilant about, and filter what you spend your time consuming under the guise of "news." But it's everywhere. One has to make a conscious effort to avoid it. That's why even those of us without cable, televisions, and radios still know about Lebron James.

Furthermore, whether you call it "news," "education" or better "belief system," there is information you *should* be seeking out to fill the void that exists in the vital and necessary knowledge you need in order to find out who you are, why you are here, and how you shall survive. Don't rely on news to help you do that!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 16 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here on Saipan. To learn more, visit www. passionprofit.com and follow Walt on Twitter (waltonsaipan).

Paradigms must change!

t was a pleasant morning watching hundreds of tiny white petals glowing under the lemon tree. They must have fallen off the night before during a wind-driven heavy rain.

Lt was a beautiful sight hailing from Mother Nature. The petals and rainy season sparked a sense of hope, a revival of pensive optimism in the shift of the season. It gives relief to wilting flora in the savannahs and along panoramic Beach Road.

It sent my imagination into a trance, a trance that the economic downturn has returned to normalcy like the arrival of our version of spring. But there's nothing to scaffold it. It was suspect at best, wishful thinking at worst. I couldn't superimpose the beauty brought by the change of the season to a fast deteriorating economy.

The trance was choked to a gag after redundant pabulum of bankruptcy in the front pages of local papers. It sends a chilly confirmation that something is seriously wrong in paradise despite the brave façade of mediocrity from dazed leadership.

Can the elite minds capably exit conventional wisdom to confront the disconnect that had and continues to victimize the people they represent in government? It's not a blame game but there's a sense of bewilderment that warrants a new language, creativity, a revolutionary spirit in demand by the moment.

The sum of collective misconceptions has produced a tragic paradox: the perpetuation of perilous policies that only accelerate the NMI's economic demise. Most have no inkling what's gone down the pike. Imagine if they are tasked to read what's ahead. Sad, if not,

scary that our future is in their hands.

Understandably, the new challenge in representative democracy has given birth to the raucous search of our identity and future as U.S. citizens. Most have yet to come to terms with the shift of the old ways. We now have self-government mired in clashing views and misconceptions about the concept within the context of the Covenant Agreement.

Would we ever attain economic recovery or is this a dream solely the purview of ordinary citizenry? It seems this has rightly turned into a martyr's task given scarce opportunity to shore up new revenue streams, to wit: commercial real estate development continues to deteriorate. This is exacerbated by the absence of new interest from investors that further dampens wealth and jobs creation. It has forced major contraction of private industries beyond our wildest imaginings.

High unemployment is on the horizon while public debt looms larger than annual collection as reported in a study by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The key challenge is the development of a credible strategy to put the NMI budget on a sustainable path while focusing on new investments to prop up revenue generation. This is primordial responsibility what with a \$300 million deficit that keeps bloating.

A lot of small businesses have put on shutters in recent past. The closure of Saipan Wells Fargo around September is more bad tidings. The rest are literally struggling to make ends meet. Sadly, we haven't extended some form of assistance to this sector in order for them to weather the storm of global financial meltdown. Aren't they

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR. Special to the Saipan Tribune

Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



part and whole of the local economic community? This mindset too must shift where everybody joins hand to guard against total economic disaster.

Raising assorted government imposed fees at this juncture isn't going to cut the cake either. It'll drive more small businesses to their demise than meets the eye of derelict policymakers. Granting some tax breaks would certainly give them the opportunity to shore up more money to improve their services. Improved services translate into the ability to hire more warm bodies.

The worsening economic decline will continue to deepen beyond our wildest imaginings. This is when we look toward the fading glow atop Capital Hill to see some purposeful sense of leadership. Definitely, there has to be a shift in paradigm lest we'd be watching TV opposite down, clinging to our ship that has gone belly up.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The right to bear arms

Dear people of the Commonwealth: I have introduced a legislation that if passed, would bring the CNMI in compliance with one of the major provisions of the U.S. Constitution. The 2nd Amendment of the Constitution protects our right to arm ourselves with

firearms and other weapons if you wish to. We have not been abiding with the Constitution that is supposed to guide us It is also provided in our Covenant with the United States in which we are guaranteed of our right to bear arms.

There are many reasons why the wise Founding Fathers of the United States made it so plain, so clear, so simple that the citizens of the country would have the right—yes, the right—to keep and bear arms. Note that it is not a permission or a license granted by the government; in fact the government is specifically

banned by the Constitution from interfering with the right of the people to arm themselves. Self-protection, hunting, national defense, all of these and many more are valid reasons for having citizens armed. Maybe the most important reason is that it provides the ultimate protection from having a government run as a tyrant over its people.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres

17th Legislature, Capital Hill

12 WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.

▲86° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 85° ▼ 76°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼76°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲ 86° ▼ 77°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲86° ▼77°

Micronesia

| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 89 | ▼ 79 |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Palau | Sunny | ▲ 87 | ▼ 78 |
| Yap | Sunny | ▲ 87 | ▼ 77 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ≜ 83 | ▼ 78 |
| Pohnpei | Rain | ≜ 88 | ▼ 73 |
| Kosrae | Partly Sunny | ▲ 89 | ▼ 76 |
| Majuro | Partly Sunny | ▲ 85 | ▼ 76 |

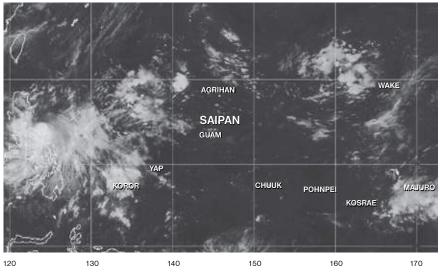
Around The Globe

| Auckland | Cloudy | ▲ 57 | ₹44 |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| Beijing | Thundershowers | ≜ 86 | ▼ 71 |
| Hong Kong | Thundershowers | ▲ 86 | ₹75 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | ▲ 84 | ▼ 74 |
| London | Showers | ▲ 71 | ▼ 60 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲ 79 | ▼ 66 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ≜ 88 | ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | ≜ 53 | ▼ 44 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | \$ 89 | ₹81 |
| New York | Thundershowers | ≜ 86 | ▼ 76 |
| Osaka | Thundershowers | ≜ 86 | ₹74 |
| Paris | Partly Cloudy | ▲ 77 | ▼ 61 |
| Pusan | Thundershowers | s ≜ 78 | ₹73 |
| Rome | Sunny | ▲ 91 | ▼ 72 |
| Salem | Sunny | ≜ 85 | ▼55 |
| San Francisco | o Sunny | ▲ 65 | ₹58 |
| Seoul | Thundershowers | ▲83 | ₹74 |
| Tokvo | Thundershowers | \$ 85 | ▼ 76 |

Washington, DC Thundershowers ▲ 91 ▼79

| Saipan Ha | arbor | | |
|-----------|-------|------------|----------|
| 3:32 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.1 Feet |
| 8:30 AM | Today | High Tide: | 2.1 Feet |
| 3:44 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.5 Feet |
| | | | |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2010

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180

Typhoon Conson (03W) continues to move westward into the Philippine Islands. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring on the eastern periphery of Conson to the west of a line from 11N130E to 15N133E to 17N130E. Convergent low-level winds are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Republic of Palau within 200 miles of a line from 11N135E to 4N133E. An upper-level low is centered near 24N135E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present northwest of the Mariana Islands in an area bounded by a line from 21N133E to 21N143E to 14N137E back to 21N133E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with another upperlevel low centered near 21N159E are taking place northwest of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 23N159E to 19N163E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Marshall Islands to the east of 167E between 3N and 8N.

Tides

| Saipan Ha | rbor | | |
|-----------|-------|------------|----------|
| 3:32 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 1.1 Feet |
| 8:30 AM | Today | High Tide: | 2.1 Feet |
| 3:44 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.5 Feet |
| 10:33 PM | Today | High Tide: | 2.1 Feet |

| Sun | rise/Suns | et |
|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Wednesday | 5:54 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Thursday | 5:54 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Friday | 5:55 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Saturday | 5:55 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Sunday | 5:55 AM | 6:51 PM |

| Moon | irise/Moor | nset |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Wednesday | 8:06 AM | 8:54 PM |
| Thursday | 9:06 AM | 9:39 PM |
| Friday | 10:04 AM | 10:22 PM |
| Saturday | 11:02 AM | 11:05 PM |
| Sunday | 11:58 AM | 11:50 PM |

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The Saipan Tribune accepts for FREE publication the following

PICTURES ■ ISLAND SNAPSHOTS

- Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones,
- accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

NMI CRIME

STOPPERS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ TRÁVELOGUE

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies
- Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- tos should be original and not copyrighted. Contrib utors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures.
- \blacksquare Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number. ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to

next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or iavvee valleiera@saipantribune.com Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950 ■ Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center
- Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are

6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The Saipan Tribune will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

 For Travelogue, the Saipan Tribune reserves the right
- to choose which pictures to publish.

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 10, 2010

| - 1 | LIGH | T SCH | IEDULE A | AS OF J | ULY 1 | 0, 20 | 10 |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| DE | PAR | TUR | ES | | ARF | RIVAL | S |
| ROTA (F | ROP)-(| GUAM | | GUAM-F | ROTA | (ROP) | |
| C09597 | • | 5:30am | 1, 5 | C09598 | - | 7:00pm | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN | -GUAI | M | | GUAM-S | SAIPA | N | |
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily | C09316 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily | C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09601 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 | C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | Daily |
| C09603 | 3:05pm | 3:55pm | Daily | C09602 | 1:40pm | 2:30pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09605 | | 7:25pm | Daily | C09604 | | 6:00pm | Daily |
| C09599 | | 10:25pm | Daily | C09606 | 8:10pm | | Daily |
| SAIPAN | -NARI | ITA (NI | RT) | NARITA | (NRT |)-SAIP | AN |
| DL287 | 6:00am | 8:35am | Daily | DL290 | 9:45am | 2:35pm | Daily |
| DL297 | 3:20pm | 5:55pm | Daily | DL298 | | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL289 | , | 7:10pm | Daily | DL288 | | 1:10am+1 | Daily |
| | · | · | Dully | | , | | Dully |
| SAIPAN DI 640 | | DYA 10:20am | Daily | NAGOYA DL641 | | PAN 1:45am+1 | Daily |
| VL0 4 0 | 1.400111 | IV.ZVaIII | vally | DL041 | 7.100111 | I. 1 Jaili†I | vally |
| SAIPAN | | - | - | BUSAN | | | |
| 0Z608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 | 0Z607 | 9:00pm | 2:20am+1 | 4, 7 |
| SAIPAN | -SEOL | JL (ICN | l) | SEOUL (| (ICN)- | SAIPA | N |
| 0Z604 | | 6:00am | 1 | 0Z605 | | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| 0Z604 | | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | 0Z603 | , | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| 0Z606 | 3:30pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | 0Z603 | 8:10pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| SAIPAN | -SHAI | NGHAI | (PVG) | SHANGI | HAI (F | VG)-S | AIPAN |
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 | FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN | -GUAI | NGZHO | U (CAN) | GUANG | ZHOU | (CAN) | -SAIPAN |
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 | CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |
| SAIPAN | -MAN | ILA (M | NL) | MANILA | (MNI | L)-SAIF | PAN |
| 0Z604/701 | 2:20am | 11:25am | 1 via ICN | 0Z704/605 | 12:10am | 2:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| 0Z604/701 | 2:50am | 11:25am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | DI (20/(41 | (,20am | 1.4Fam.1 | via ICN |
| C00217/001 | 1:2E am | 0:4Eam | via ICN | DL630/641 | 6.30dill | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO |
| C09317/891 | | 9:45am | 6 via GUM | D1170/000 | 7.40 | 110 1 | |
| DL287/173 | | 10:10pm | Daily via NRT | DL172/288 | | 1:10am+1 | Daily via NR |
| DL640/629 | r:4uam | 10:35pm | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 | C0890/9606 | | 9:00pm | 6 via GUM |
| | | | via NGO | 0Z702/603 | | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C09603/933 | 3:05pm | • | Daily via GUM | 0Z702/603 | 12:45pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| C09603/893 | 3:05pm | 9:10pm | 3, 5 via GUM- | | | | via ICN |
| | | | Palau | PR110/C09596 | 10:00pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 |
| 0Z606/703 | 3:30pm | 11:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 | | | | via GUM |
| | | | via ICN | C0892/9596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 3,5 via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:35pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 | | | | Palau |
| | | | via GUM | C0934/9596 | 10:55pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GU |
| SAIPAN | -HON | G KON | G | HONG K | ONG- | SAIPAI | 1 |
| 0Z604/721 | 2:20am | 11:45am | 1 via ICN | 0Z724/605 | 12:30am | 2:30pm | 2 ,4 ,6, 7 |
| 0Z604/721 | 2:50am | 11:45am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 | | | - | via ICN |
| • | | | via ICN | 0Z722/603 | 1:15pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| C09603/909 | 3:05am | 9:30pm | 1, 5 via GUM | 0Z722/603 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| | | | | 22.22,000 | | | |
| 02000 1 EU | o.oopiii | . v. v v p iii | | 0.0910/9596 | 10:35nm | 7:50am+1 | |
| 0Z606/723 | 3:30pm | 10:30pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN | C0910/9596 | 10:35pm | 7:50am+1 | via ICN 1, 5 via G |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines: OZ: Asiana

FTD: Estimated Time of Departure: FTA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Sainan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA Fr | equency |
|---------------|-------|-------|-----------|---------------|-------|--------|---------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 113 | 11:40 | 11:50 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:30 | 8:00 | Daily | FRE 115 | 13:00 | 13:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 117 | 14:30 | 14:40 | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 8:20 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 119 | 16:00 | 16:10 | Daily |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 121 | 16:40 | 16:50 | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 17:00 | 17:30 | Daily | FRE 123 | 17:40 | 17:50 | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | 17:50 | 18:20 | Daily | FRE 125 | 18:30 | 18:40 | Daily |
| | | | | | | | |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | Tinian-Saipar | 1 | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | FRE 102 | 7:05 | 7:15 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | 10:20 | 10:45 | Daily | FRE 104 | 7:50 | 8:00 | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 106 | 8:20 | 8:30 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 18:55 | 19:25 | Daily | FRE 108 | 9:00 | 9:10 | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 110 | 10:00 | 10:10 | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 19:40 | 20:10 | Daily | FRE 112 | 11:05 | 11:15 | Daily |
| | | | | FRE 114 | 12:00 | 12:10 | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 116 | 13:30 | 13:40 | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45 | 6:55 | Daily | FRE 118 | 14:50 | 15:00 | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30 | 7:40 | Daily | FRE 120 | 16:20 | 16:30 | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00 | 8:10 | Daily | FRE 122 | 17:00 | 17:10 | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40 | 8:50 | Daily | FRE 124 | 18:05 | 18:15 | Daily |
| FRE 109 | 9:10 | 9:20 | Daily | FRE 126 | 18:50 | 19:00 | Daily |
| FRE 111 | 10:45 | 10:55 | Daily | | | | |

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 13

LEGAL NOTICE

IF YOU WERE AN AT&T WIRELESS CUSTOMER AFTER MARCH 1, 1999, YOU COULD RECEIVE BENEFITS FROM CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENTS.

Para ver este aviso en español, visite www.awssettlement.com o llame 1-866-249-8109

Subject to Court approval, settlements were reached of class action lawsuits against AT&T Wireless Services, Inc. ("AWS") regarding challenges to: (1) charges for mMode Data Service ("mMode") and ENH Discount International Dial ("EDID"), if they were unauthorized or not understood; (2) charges for cellular telephone calls during a billing period other than the one in which the calls were made ("Out-of-Cycle Billing"), if not understood; and (3) imposition of Universal Connectivity Charges ("UCC"), if not understood (collectively, "Settled Claims"). The Settlements concern practices of AWS, which was merged out of existence in 2004, not Cingular Wireless or AT&T Mobility. AWS denies any wrongdoing, but settled to avoid further litigation.

You may be a class member if you:

- o live in the U.S. or its territories, were an AWS subscriber after December 20, 2001, and were billed and paid, but not refunded in full, for mMode or EDID;
- o live in California, initiated AWS service under a "One Rate-type" plan after March 1, 1999, and were charged for calls during a billing period other than the one in which the calls were made; or
- o live in the U.S. or its territories, were an AWS subscriber after March 1, 1999, and paid, but were not refunded or credited, for UCC charges.

You may be a member of multiple classes.

If the Settlements are approved, Class Members may receive:

- o mMode: \$8 check
- o EDID: \$10 check
- o Out-of-Cycle Billing: \$8 check or 250 minute calling card
- o UCC: \$7 check.

Who represents you?

Class Members are represented by Arias Ozzello & Gignac, Foley Bezek Behle & Curtis, Breskin Johnson & Townsend, the Houck Law Firm, and Sundeen Salinas & Pyle. Class Counsel will request the Court to award attorneys' fees and expenses, which *will not* be paid by Class Members or from class benefits.

What are my options?

To receive benefits, Class Members *must* submit a Claim Form (available at www.awssettlement. com or 1-866-249-8109) by February 13, 2011.

You may exclude yourself from the lawsuits and keep your individual right to sue AWS, by sending a written request for exclusion to the Claims Administrator by September 29, 2010. If you do not exclude yourself, you will be bound by the Settlements' terms and give up your rights to sue regarding the Settled Claims.

If you do not exclude yourself, you or your lawyer may appear before the Court and object to the proposed Settlements. If you choose to appear through an attorney, you are responsible for paying that attorney. Objections must be filed and served by September 29, 2010. You will be bound by the Settlements' terms even if your objection is rejected.

The Court will determine whether to approve the Settlements at a Fairness Hearing on November 15, 2010 at 12:00 noon at the United States District Court for the Central District of California at 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, Courtroom 5.

This notice is only a summary. For further information visit: www.awssettlement.com, call: 1-866-249-8109, or write: AT&T Wireless Settlement, Claims Administrator, c/o The Garden City Group, Inc., P.O. Box 9482, Dublin, OH 43017-4582.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147 Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

The Commonwealth Development Authority will auction the following items on Friday, July 23, 2010 at 2p.m. at the CDA Office Conference Room.

- Washer: (1) Coin Operated, Whirlpool Model: CA2751XYWO, SN: CH2155987 Located: Pacific Gardenia Hotel
- Dryer: (2) Coin Operated, Speed Queen Commercial Model: EE5111WF, SN: S6491205YMU Located: Pacific Gardenia Hotel
- Safe: (1) Hase Dimensions: H71"x W41"x D25" Located: CDA Office
- **Signs:** Poker signs Located: CDA Office

The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The items are being sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS";
- The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of
- The public auction will be held at the **CDA Confer**ence Room on Friday, July 23, 2010 at 2p.m.
- Full payment is required before items can be removed from the premises; and buyer is responsible for removing purchased items;
- Terms of the sale are cash, credit card (MC and Visa) or certified check; and
- CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale.

MANUEL A. SABLAN **Executive Director**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

INVITATION FOR BIDS

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERATORS FOR THE W.I.C. ADMINISTRATION AND CLINIC BUILDINGS LOCATED ON NAVY HILL, SAIPAN.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply, Delivery and Installation for the Emergency Generators for the W.I.C. Administration and Clinic Buildings Located on Navy Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after July 07, 2010 at DPW Technical Services Division, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissione

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further Amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if

There will be a Pre-Bid Conference for this project on July 23, 2010, 10:00 a.m. local time at the project site located in W.I.C. Administration Building, Navy Hill Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 28, 2010 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director of Technical Services Division, #1353 Mednilla Avenue, Capital Hill Saipan or facsimile to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW10-IFB-013**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time August 04, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time August 04, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to <u>procurement@pticom.com</u>. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Services or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than August 04, 2010, and must be received no later than August 13, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00 p.m. local time, August 18, 2010, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 1:00 p.m. local time, on August 09, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A Surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: 'Credit account No. 44660''. If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (US\$100.00) per working days for delays beyond the established

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government . The Government reserves the right to reject any or all dibs and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ. Secretary of Public Health

New rules now make it easier for vets with PTSD to claim benefits

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The lessness or horror. PTSD is not veterans of the Iraq and Afghani-Department of Veterans Affairs has issued new rules, taking effect this week, that make it easier for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder to claim disability benefits.

In an announcement President Obama made on Saturday, he said veterans with PTSD will no longer have to prove that some specific incident—a bomb blast, for instance—caused their condition. They will only have to show that the conditions where they served were sufficient to cause the post-traumatic stress.

"This is very welcome news for our service men and women who continue to endure the effects of war long after they have returned home," Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said. "We must never forget what we owe to those who have served in our nation's armed forces."

Post-traumatic stress is a medically recognized anxiety disorder. It can develop from seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helpuncommon among veterans returning from war zones.

In the past, veterans had to show evidence that they had seen or experienced a particular specific event that triggered their PTSD, if they wanted to file a claim for benefits. Under the Department of Veterans Affairs'new rule, effective July 13, veterans will no longer have to prove they experienced a stressor related to hostile military or terrorist activity. Instead, a VA psychiatrist or psychologist will be able to confirm that the veteran's war zone experience supports a diagnosis of PTSD diagnosis.

It is estimated that nearly 20 percent of returning veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress or from depression as a result of their experience.

"The rule acknowledges that just because the wounds were not physical, does not mean the soldier or sailor has not suffered," said Sablan. "By easing the standard of proof, our veterans will get the care and treatment they need."

The new rules apply not only to

stan wars, but also to those who served in previous conflicts.

The rule applies to claims for service-connected PTSD filed with the VA on or after July 13, 2010. It also applies to claims received prior to July 13 that have not been decided upon as of that date or that have been remanded by the Veterans Court for readjudication. Appeals filed with the Board of Veterans Appeals, including those that have not been decided by the effective date of the rule, are also affected.

In his remarks on Saturday, President Obama outlined his Administration's efforts to increase veteran services-increasing the VA's budget, expanding and increasing VA health care, and working to prevent and end veteran homelessness.

"I support the President's goals for veterans," Sablan said. "And I will work with my colleagues in Congress to gain the necessary funding for these initiatives.

"For our veterans and their families, their sacrifice did not end when they left the war zone-neither should our commitment to them." (PR)



SUPPORTING FAMILY LITERACY

Bank of Saipan president and chief executive officer John Bargfrede presents a \$1,000 donation to Humanities Council board chair Tracy Guerrero. Also pictured is the council's program officer, Merced A. Ada. The Humanities Council will use this donation to support its Motheread Family Literacy program.

Arts council sets town hall meetings

By CLARISSA V. DAVID clarissa david@saipantribune.com

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has announced the schedule of town hall meetings they have arranged in the next three weeks for all registered and non-registered artists here in the CNMI.

CCAC executive director Angel S. Hocog said the council wants to extend their support to the local artists. Through these meetings, the council can listen to their concerns and find out what can be done to assist them, he said.

The schedule of the town hall meetings on Saipan are as follows:

■ July 16, 2010 Multi Purpose Center,

5:30pm

■ July 23, 2010 Koblerville Youth Center, 5:30pm

■ July 30, 2010 Tanapag Youth Center,

5:30pm ■ Aug. 6, 2010 San Antonio Youth Learning Center, 5:30pm

■ Aug. 13, 2010 Kagman Community Center, 5:30pm

The town hall meetings for Tinian and Rota will be announced at a later date.

Arts in Education coordinator Parker Yobei said the agenda for these town hall meetings include orientation on the council's mission, particularly for artists who have yet to register with the council.

The council will also discuss uncoming events that will be valuable to local artists. These events include a proposed artist exhibit, and the participation of the CNMI in the Guam Micronesia Fair slated on October 15 to 17 and in the Festival of the Pacific Arts to be held in Solomon Islands in 2012.

The meeting will discuss potential fundraising events to enable the council to send representatives to the two scheduled festivals.

CCAC encourages all local artists to attend at least one of these town hall meetings.

For more information about the town hall meetings, contact Parker Yobei at 322-9982 or 83 or email him at parkeryobei@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 **15** SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

GOP's Snowe, Brown back Hefner offers to buy rest of Playboy Wall Street overhaul bill

alth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"

July 13, 2010

PROGRAM YEAR 2010 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern

Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its

Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2010

Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development

Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and

Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth.

Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director,

NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670)

234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is August 16, 2010, no later than

Purchase of Tinian Fire Division Life Saving and Fire Protection Equipment

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central

Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in

Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,

Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing

special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact

Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670)

MMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer

Susupe Complex Major Rehabilitation of the Gymnasium

Potential Projects for Program Year 2010:

Rehabilitation of Dandan Basketball Court

Susupe Sports Complex Fencing

Construction of Tinian Fire Station

234-6866/7689 during regular business hours

Sinapalo Children's Park

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sens. Olympia Snowe and Scott Brown pushed sweeping financial legislation to the edge of final passage Monday, both announcing they intend to support the regulatory overhaul despite initial misgivings.

Snowe of Maine and Brown of Massachusetts join Susan Collins of Maine as three crucial Republican votes for the legislation.

"While not perfect, the legislation takes necessary steps to implement meaningful regulatory reforms, create strong consumer protections and restore

4:30 p.m.

confidence in the American financial system," Snowe said in a statement Monday evening.

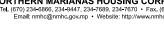
In breaking with the rest of the Republican Party, the three lawmakers appeared to give Democratic leaders the 60 votes needed to overcome procedural hurdles facing the legislation.

Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said the legislation would be wrapped up this week.

"We will finish our work on this bill this week to ensure that these critical protections and accountability for Wall Street are in place as soon as possible." Reid said in a statement.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION





PUBLIC NOTICE

"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC" July 13, 2010

CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN 2010 - 2015

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2010 - 2015 Consolidated Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is August 16, 2010, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender, and employer

silk pajama-clad 84-year-old— to take Playboy private.

The offer comes as print adthe company's voting shares vertising is in a tailspin and

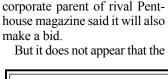
> the company has stretched its brand thin trying to wring profits through leasing its famous bunny ears for everything from cigars to slot machines.

Hefner, who serves as Playboy's editorin-chief and chief creative officer, is offering

\$5.50 per share in cash, a nearly 40 percent premium above Friday's closing stock price of \$3.94. Shares of the company

gained 41 percent Monday. Based on the number of shares outstanding on April 30, Hefner's proposal is worth \$122.5 million and values the company at about \$185 million.

Playboy, which is headquartered in Chicago, described Hefner's offer letter as a proposal and said there was no guarantee it would get any formal bid from Hefner. But Playboy said Hefner indicated that Rizvi Traverse has been in touch with "major lenders regarding potential financing" and is "highly confident ample financial resources will be available to complete the transaction."



CHICAGO (AP)—Hugh Hef-

ner wants to buy out the por-

tion of the Playboy empire he

doesn't already own in a bet that

the iconic brand can still bring

in profits even if the ink-on-pa-

Hefner, who founded Play-

boy magazine more than a half-

century ago, is apparently not

alone in thinking Playboy can

keep swinging into the digital

age. A few hours after Playboy

Enterprises Inc. announced

Hefner's offer Monday, the

per magazine is past its prime.



concern Hefner

could threaten the brand and its

legacy. Hefner has instead pro-

posed joining up with a little-

known private equity firm, Riz-

vi Traverse Management LLC,

who owns about 70 percent of

stock-

and 28 percent of the

Playboy said Hef-

ner made it clear in his

buyout proposal that

he is not interested in

a sale or merger. The

company said Hefner

that selling Playboy

nonvoting

will budge.

expressed



Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A. Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601

E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for litigation and legal counseling services for the institution. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Wednesday, June 16, 2010 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Litigation and Legal Counseling Services

Proposal Packages are due no later than 4:00 p.m., July 14, 2010, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available to local vendors in this procurement. For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to

All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

Approved by the following:

/ss/Anita Camacho NMC Procurement Manager

Website: www.mariana-express.com

/ss/Barbara K. Merfalen NMC, Acting Interim President



| Outbound from Asia | Voyage No. | ETD Jakarta | ETD Bangkok | ETD P. Kelang | ETD Melbourne | ETD Singapore | ETD Hochiminh | ETD Busan | ETD Kobe | ETD Shanghai | ETD Auckland | ETD Manila | ETD Hongkong | ETD Kaoshiung | ETD Naha |
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| MELL SPRINGLEAF | 006E | 7/10 Sat | 7/8 Thu | 7/8 Thu | 7/6 Tue | 7/3 Sat | 7/16 Fri | 7/12 Mon | 7/11 Sun | 7/4 Sun | 7/4 Sun | 7/12 Mon | 7/16 Fri | 7/18 Sun | 7/20 Tue |
| MELL SILOSO | 007E | 7/17 Sat | 7/15 Thu | 7/15 Thu | 7/13 Tue | 7/10 Sat | 7/23 Fri | 7/19 Mon | 7/18 Sun | 7/11 Sun | 7/11 Sun | 7/19 Mon | 7/23 Fri | 7/25 Sun | 7/27 Tue |
| MELL SENTOSA | 041E | 7/24 Sat | 7/22 Thu | 7/22 Thu | 7/20 Tue | 7/17 Sat | 7/30 Fri | 7/26 Mon | 7/25 Sun | 7/18 Sun | 7/18 Sun | 7/26 Mon | 7/30 Fri | 8/1 Sun | 8/3 Tue |
| MELL SPRINGLEAF | 007E | 7/31 Sat | 7/29 Thu | 7/29 Thu | 7/27 Tue | 7/24 Sat | 8/6 Fri | 8/2 Mon | 8/1 Sun | 7/25 Sun | 7/25 Sun | 8/2 Mon | 8/6 Fri | 8/8 Sun | 8/10 Tue |
| MELL SILOSO | 008E | 8/7 Sat | 8/5 Thu | 8/5 Thu | 8/3 Tue | 7/31 Sat | 8/13 Fri | 8/9 Mon | 8/8 Sun | 8/1 Sun | 8/1 Sun | 8/9 Mon | 8/13 Fri | 8/15 Sun | 8/17 Tue |

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| from Asia | No. | Gı | ıam | Saipan | Yap | Koror | Davao | GenSan | Cebu | Hongkong | Kaoshiung | Busan | Yokohama | Manila | Singapore |
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| MELL SPRINGLEAF | 006E | 7/24 Sat | 7/25 Sun | 7/25 Sun | 7/25 Sun | 7/28 Wed | 7/30 Fri | 8/1 Sun | SKIP | 8/6 Fri | 8/7 Sat | 8/12 Thu | 8/31 Tue | 8/15 Sun | 8/11 Wed |
| MELL SILOSO | 007E | 7/31 Sat | 8/1 Sun | 8/1 Sun | SKIP | 8/4 Wed | 8/6 Fri | 8/8 Sun | SKIP | 8/13 Fri | 8/14 Sat | 8/19 Thu | 9/7 Tue | 8/22 Sun | 8/18 Wed |
| MELL SENTOSA | 041E | 8/7 Sat | 8/8 Sun | 8/8 Sun | 7/25 Sun | 8/11 Wed | 8/13 Fri | 8/15 Sun | SKIP | 8/20 Fri | 8/21 Sat | 8/26 Thu | 9/14 Tue | 8/29 Sun | 8/25 Wed |
| MELL SPRINGLEAF | 007E | 8/14 Sat | 8/15 Sun | 8/15 Sun | SKIP | 8/18 Wed | 8/20 Fri | 8/22 Sun | SKIP | 8/27 Fri | 8/28 Sat | 9/2 Thu | 9/21 Tue | 9/5 Sun | 9/1 Wed |
| MELL SILOSO | 008E | 8/21 Sat | 8/22 Sun | 8/22 Sun | | 8/25 Wed | 8/27 Fri | 8/29 Sun | SKIP | 9/3 Fri | 9/4 Sat | 9/9 Thu | 9/28 Tue | 9/12 Sun | 9/8 Wed |

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> Jaime P. Salazar Outbound Direct line (670) 236-2410

Leslie R. Alcantara Sales and Marketing Direct line (670) 236-2402



16 WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

BP affixes new cap on Gulf oil well; tests ahead

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—BP robots attached a new, tighter-fitting cap on top of the gushing Gulf of Mexico oil leak Monday, raising hopes that the crude could be kept from polluting the water for the first time in nearly three months.

Placing the cap on top of the leak was the climax of two days of delicate preparation work and a day of slowly lowering it into position a mile below the sea. The capping project—akin to building an underwater Lego tower—is just a temporary fix, but the oil giant's best hope for containing the spill.

The next unknown is whether the 18foot-high, 150,000-pound metal stack of pipes and valves will work. BP plans to start tests Tuesday, gradually shutting the valves to see if the oil stops or if it starts leaking from another part of the well.

Residents have been skeptical BP can deliver on its promise to control the spill, but the news was still welcome on the coast. Dwayne Touchet, a 44-yearold shrimper from Welsh, La., said he was relieved to hear the cap was on and can only pray that it works. Touchet is working in the Vessels of Opportunity program, where BP employs local boat owners and fisherman out of work because of the spill.

"It's not over, there's still a lot of oil to clean up. We don't know how it will affect it (the water) in the years to come, all we can do is trust in the Lord," he said.

Around 6:30 p.m. CDT, live video streams trained on the wellhead showed the cap being slowly lowered into place, 11 hours after BP Chief Op-

Closer to containment

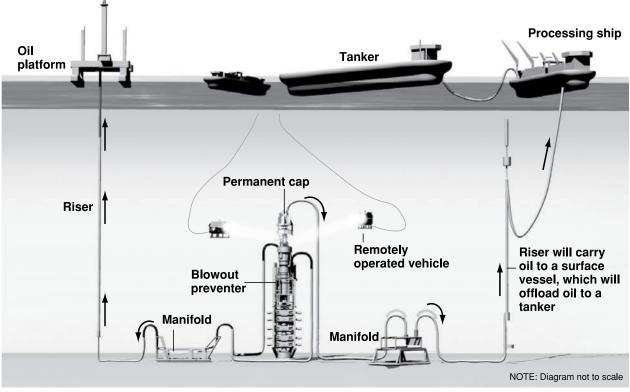
BP is replacing the cap on the blowout preventer with a more permanent sealing cap. Some oil will escape during the switch of the caps, which could take several days.

Started in mid-June

A new riser connected to the manifold and the blowout preventer is capturing escaping oil and gas and pumping it to the platform, where it is being flared

Planned for this month

Storage tankers and floating risers that can be detached during a hurricane will be added to collect more oil



Source: BP, Upstream Graphic: Julie Sheer, Lorena I. Elebee, Los Angeles Times

© 2010 MCT

erating Officer Doug Suttles said the in place. BP officials said the device company was close to putting the seal was attached around 7 p.m.

The cap will be tested and monitored to see if it can withstand pressure from

oil and gas starting Tuesday morning for six to 48 hours, according to National Incident Commander Thad Allen. On his Facebook page, Allen also shared news of the development. "Getting there," Allen wrote in a status update shortly after the cap landed on the well.

The cap will be tested by closing off three separate valves that fit together snugly like pairs of fists, choking off the oil and blocking it from entering the Gulf.

BP doesn't want the flow of oil to stop instantaneously, said Don Van Nieuwenhuise, director of Professional Geosciences Programs at the University of Houston. Shutting the oil off too quickly could cause another explosion, he said.

"Rather than like a train running into a brick wall, it'll be more like putting the brakes on slowly," he said. 'That's what they're aiming for. You can keep the brakes on and everyone arrives alive, or you hit the wall and have big problems."

Engineers will be watching pressure readings. High pressure is good, because it would mean the leak has been contained inside the wellhead machinery. But if readings are lower than expected, that could mean there is another leak elsewhere in the well.

"Another concern right now would be how much pressure the well can take," and whether intense pressure would further damage the well, said Eric Smith, associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute.

Republican senator says he backs birther lawsuits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican Sen. David Vitter of Louisiana says he supports conservative organizations challenging President Barack Obama's citizenship in court.

Vitter, who is running for re-election, made the comments at a town hall-style event in Metairie, La., on Sunday when a constituent asked what he would do about what the questioner said was Obama's "refusal to produce a valid birth certificate."

claims about Obama Obama's birth certificate have been discredited. But with the crowd applauding the question, Vitter responded that although he doesn't personally have legal standing to bring

litigation, he supports "conservative

legal organizations and others who would bring that to court," according to a video of the event.

"I think that is the valid and most possibly effective grounds to

do it," Vitter said, although he later cautioned that the matter could distract from policy issues.

"I think if we focus on that issue and let our eve off the ball ... I think that's a big mistake," he said. "I'm not dismissing any of this. I think first and foremost, we need to fight the Obama agenda at

the ballot box starting this fall.'

So-called birthers have challenged Obama's standing as president by arguing that he was not born in the United States.

Gingrich says he's considering presidential run rebounded from first-term problems

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Former grich said. "It's fair to say that by Feb-U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Monday he's seriously considering seeking the Republican presidential nomination and will announce his decision early next year.

Gingrich, 67, told The Associated Press that he would focus on helping Republican candidates through the midterm elections in November, then decide in February or March whether to seek the GOP nomination.

"I've never been this serious," Gin-

Hawaii officials have repeatedly confirmed the president's citizenship, and his Hawaiian birth certificate has been made public, along with news-

ruary the groundwork will have been laid to consider seriously whether or not to run," he said.

Gingrich, in Des Moines for a fundraiser and workshop for local Republican candidates, predicted President Barack Obama would be a one-term president. Obama's poll numbers have dropped below 50 percent, and Gingrich predicted they would continue to fall, making him vulnerable in 2012.

Unlike President Bill Clinton, who

paper birth notices published when he was born in 1961.

Last year, a federal judge in Washington threw out a lawsuit on the issue, by pushing for welfare reform and budget balancing changes that pleased moderate voters, Gingrich argued that Obama shows no inclination to move toward the center.

"He's not like Bill Clinton," Gingrich said. "Bill Clinton was an Arkansas, Southern Baptist, sort of understood middle American. While he had some Yale overtones being liberal, the truth is Bill Clinton was quite happy to move to the right."

calling the case a waste of the court's time and suggesting the plaintiff's attorney may have to compensate the president's lawyer.

Mate piloting tug in Pa. duck boat crash takes 5th

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A crew member refusing to talk to federal investigators about a fatal duck boat crash in Philadelphia was piloting the tugboat pushing a barge that slammed into the duck boat, a Coast Guard official said Monday. The mate exercised his Fifth Amendment right against selfincrimination and refused to meet with investigators over the weekend, according to the National Transportation and Safety Board. U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Todd Gatlin confirmed to The Associated Press that the mate was on

duty as the tug pushed a 250-foot barge up the Delaware River. The crew of the duck boat told the NTSB that its radio calls to the tug "received no response," although other boat operators nearby reported hearing them.

Ex-Univ. of Delaware student killed in Uganda

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—A former college rugby player who toured U.S. colleges and churches urging people to help children in war-riven Uganda was among 74 killed by explosions that tore through crowds watching the World Cup final in the African country. Nate Henn was on a rugby field Sunday in Kampala with some of the children he'd gone to help when he was hit by shrapnel from one of the blasts, according to the aid group he worked for. A Uganda native Henn mentored had traveled back to the country with him and was standing next to him, but 20-year-old Innocent Opwonya wasn't harmed. "Right now he's so broken he can barely talk," said Jedidiah Jenkins, spokesman for the aid group Invisible children, said of Opwonya. "Nate was just his father figure, his brother, his family."

Mich. woman gets prison sentence for sex with son

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP)—A Detroitarea woman who pleaded guilty to having sex with the biological son she gave up for adoption and later tracked down on the Internet has been sentenced nine years to 30 years in prison. Thirty-sixyear-old Aimee L. Sword of Waterford Township apologized at her sentencing Monday in Oakland County Circuit Court. She had pleaded guilty to one count of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in a deal with prosecutors. Police say Sword used Facebook in 2008 to find her son, who's now 16. She gave him up for adoption as an infant. He testified they had sex in Waterford Township and Grand Rapids. Waterford Township is 30 miles northwest of Detroit.

3 dead in workplace shooting in New Mexico

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A gunman angry about a child custody dispute with his girlfriend shot her

Monday after a confrontation outside the New Mexico manufacturing plant where she works, then forced his way inside and killed two other employees before turning the gun on himself. Police identified the shooter as Robert Reza, 37, who had addresses in Rio Rancho and Albuquerque. Police said the shootings were motivated by Reza's disgust over a domestic violence dispute involving the girlfriend, who remained in critical condition Monday night. Three other people were wounded during the rampage, two of whom were in stable condition Monday night at University of New Mexico Hospital, spokesman Billy Sparks said. He said the fourth person was treated and released.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 **17**

Asia

NKorea abruptly cancels military talks with UN

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)— North Korea's military abruptly canceled a rare meeting Tuesday with the American-led U.N. Command that had been arranged to discuss the deadly sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on Pyongyang.

Military officers from North Korea and the U.N. Command were to meet at the Korean border village of Panmunjom on Tuesday morning to discuss sinking that killed 46 South Korean sailors. It would have been the first such meeting since the sinking, which sharp-

UN: 10 could be lifted off Taliban sanctions list

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)— The names of 10 individuals or entities with alleged links to the Taliban are being considered for removal from a U.N. sanctions list, the top U.N. official in Afghanistan said.

Staffan De Mistura said the 10 names, submitted by Afghan officials, were being forwarded to the U.N. Security Council, which will decide whether to take them off the blacklist that freezes assets and limits travel. The list includes names of 137 individuals and entities—businesses, groups and organizations—with alleged ties to the Taliban or al-Qaida.

President Hamid Karzai has pushed for the removal of some Taliban figures from the blacklist as a way to encourage militants to stop fighting or enter peace talks.

ly raised tension on the divided Korean peninsula.

The North, however, requested a delay in the talks for "administrative reasons," the U.N. Command said in a statement. A new meeting time was not immediately proposed.

An international investigation in May concluded that a North Korean submarine fired a torpedo that sank the 1,200-ton Cheonan near the tense Korean sea border in late March. Pyongyang flatly denies it was responsible and has warned any punishment would trigger war.

The U.N. Command, which oversees an armistice that ended the Korean War in 1953, separately investigated if the sinking violated the truce, though findings have not been disclosed.

Late last month, the command proposed military talks with North Korea to review its findings and initiate dialogue.

The North first rejected the offer, criticizing the U.S. for allegedly trying to meddle in inter-Korean affairs under the name of the U.N. But it reversed its position last week and proposed working-level talks at Panmunjom to prepare for higher-level talks by general officers on the sinking.

The North Korean military's request means it feels it wasn't sufficiently prepared for the meeting, said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at Seoul's University of North Korean studies. "They may have yet to get Kim Jong Il's approval for their strategy on the talks," he said, referring to the country's leader.

Afghans want foreign aid spent on their priorities

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)— The Afghan government wants foreign donors to focus 80 percent of the billions of dollars flowing into the country on priority projects it believes are key to pulling the country out of poverty and turmoil, Afghan officials said.

At a July 20 international conference in Kabul, Afghan President Hamid Karzai will ask his international partners to align at least 80 percent of development and governance assistance over the next two years to a list of 23 national priority programs and projects being introduced at the conference.

While grateful for massive international aid, Afghan officials lament that money spent during the past eight years sometimes has financed temporary programs or unsustainable projects that will not make a long-term difference in the daily lives of Afghan citizens.

"For us, the issue of alignment is critical," Afghan Finance Minister Omar Zakhilwal told reporters Monday during a briefing on the conference. "It's not only about the strengthening the legitimacy of the government. ... We believe this alignment with the government priorities, and therefore with the people's priorities, leads to sustainable development, leads to greater self-reliance of Afghanistan."

per hour. Typhoon Conson is expected to make landfall Tuesday night in mountainous Aurora province then cross the rice-growing northern Luzon Island toward the South China Sea. Forecasters say the storm could dump up to 7 inches of rain in six hours. Nearly 1,000 people died last year when typhoon-triggered floods inun-

Don't feed the elephants: **Bangkok introduces fines**

BANGKOK (AP)—You can still feed elephants in Thailand's bustling capital—but it could cost you. Bangkok authorities said Monday anyone caught handing bunches of bananas or sugar cane to the hulking beasts—proffered by their handlers to make money—faces a \$320 (10,000 baht) fine. Thailand has about 2,400 domestic elephants. There is little demand these days for the animals' traditional skills in logging and other labor, so owners sometimes loan them for begging from tourists and locals in major cities. 'The ordinance is issued to prevent untidiness or danger toward properties and lives of Bangkok residents," said Manit Techa-apichoke, deputy director of the City Law Enforcement Department, adding there had been cases of elephants

World

Somali group claims blasts

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)— East Africa saw the emergence of a new international terrorist group, as Somalia's most dangerous al-Qaida-linked militia claimed responsibility for the twin bombings in Uganda that killed 74 people during the World Cup.

The claim Monday by al-Shabab, whose fighters are trained by militant veterans of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, resets the security equation in East Africa and has broader implications worldwide. The group in the past has recruited Somali-Americans to carry out suicide bombings in the Somali capital Mogadishu.

Al-Shabab, an ultraconservative Islamic group that has drawn comparisons to Afghanistan's Taliban, has long threatened to attack outside of Somalia's borders, but the bombings late Sunday are the first time the group has done so.

'We warned Uganda not to deploy troops to Somalia; they ignored us," said Sheik Ali Mohamud Rage, al-Shabab's spokesman. "We warned them to stop massacring our people, and they ignored that. The explosions in Other neighboring nations-



Kampala were only a minor message to them. ... We will target them everywhere if Uganda does not withdraw from our land."

Rage said a second country with peacekeeping forces in Mogadishu—Burundi—could soon face attacks. Fighting in Mogadishu between militants and Somali troops or African Union peacekeepers frequently kills civilians.

The attacks outside Somalia represent a dangerous new step in al-Shabab's increasingly militant path and raises questions about its future plans. The U.S. State Department has declared al-Shabab a terrorist organization.

Kenya, Djibouti and Ethiopia, along with Burundi-may also face new attacks, analysts say.

Despite the threats, the army spokesman for Uganda—an overwhelmingly Christian nation—said the county would not withdraw. "Al-Shabab is the reason why we should stay in Somalia. We have to pacify Somalia," said Lt. Col. Felix Kulaigye.

In Washington, President Barack Obama spoke with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Monday to express his condolences for the loss of life in the bombings. Obama offered to provide any support or assistance needed in Uganda, said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs.

Medals for Haiti recovery, little for homeless Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE.

(AP)—Haiti's president handed out medals to celebrities, aidgroup directors and politicians for post-earthquake work Monday in a ceremony designed to beat back criticism of an uneven recovery that has left 1.6 million people homeless and destitute six months to the day since the disaster.

Just out of sight, baking in the oppressive noonday sun, were the fraying tarps of tens of thousands of homeless who live on the Champ de Mars, once a grassy promenade surrounding the government complex.

That is just a way to put the people to sleep. But the people are suffering," Edouard James, a 32-year-old vendor said when he was told of the ceremony. Unable to find a job with his degree in diplomacy, he sells pirated DVDs in a tarp-covered booth.

'We are tired of the NGOs ... saying we will have a better life and better conditions, and then nothing happens," he said.

Twenty-three honorees—including actor Sean Penn, CNN anchor Anderson Cooper and the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission—crossed a podium in front of the crushed, unrepaired national palace to steady applause. Some smiling, some solemn, each received medals and certificates deeming them Knights of the National Order of Honor and Merit.

President Rene Preval, whose successor is to be elected in November, defended the response to the quake. He said in two speeches during the ceremony that hard-to-see successes—like the avoidance of massive disease outbreaks and violenceobviates the perception that not enough has been done.

"There are people who did not see all the big efforts that were deployed during the emergency stage: distributing tents, water, food, installing latrines, providing health care during the six months that have just gone by," Preval said. "It is a major, major task."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Hu hails China-Taiwan trade pact

BEIJING (AP)—President Hu Jintao hailed a historic trade pact between China and Taiwan on Monday when he met with the chairman of Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party, saying it signals progress on their deepening ties. Hu told Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung during his visit that the trade deal signed last month is an "important achievement" that helps reach the two sides' goal of "peaceful development of relations." Footage of their meeting was aired on the evening news by national broadcaster China Central Television. Last month, negotiators for China and Taiwan signed a trade deal that slashes tariffs on a wide range of products, pushing their economies closer together and further easing political hostilities across the Taiwan Strait.

RP braces for heavy rains from typhoon

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines' first typhoon of the year is barreling toward the country's eastern coast and weather forecasters say it will dump heavy rains. Thirty-three out of the country's 81 provinces and the capital Manila have been placed under storm alert and residents have been warned to expect landslides and strong winds of up to 120 kilometers (75 miles) dated Manila.

hurting people and falling into drains.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cuba frees 7 political prisoners into exile

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba freed seven political prisoners on Monday and sent them and their families to exile in Spain—the start of a promised mass liberation of dissidents that once seemed unthinkable. Omar Ruiz, who had been serving a 12-year sentence for treason, said he and six other former inmates were driven in a van to Havana's Jose Marti International airport, where they were reunited with relatives in a special waiting room. All were then escorted to an Air Europa flight bound for Madrid. "We are, at this moment, walking to the plane." Ruiz told The Associated Press on his cell phone. "They brought us through the back of the airport." Ruiz added, however, that "they're watching us." "That's why I won't consider myself free until I arrive in Spain," he said.

Church of England paves the way for women bishops

LONDON (AP)—The Church of England national assembly decided Monday that women should be allowed to become bishops, making only minor concessions to theological conservatives who have threatened to break away over the issue. Dioceses will now consider the draft law, which would leave

it up to individual bishops to allow alternative oversight for traditionalists who object to serving under women bishops. The dioceses must report back by 2012 and a final vote by the ruling body, the General Synod, will still be needed, but supporters say a milestone has been passed. "The decision to consecrate women as bishops has been taken," said church spokesman Lou Henderson. "Everybody recognized the importance of offering safeguards and assurances to those who find it very difficult (to accept women bishops), but in the end Synod as a whole was not prepared to go as far as the traditionalists would have liked." The decision was not final and still faced many hurdles.

4 die in heavy rains in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Four people have been killed and another injured following a week of heavy rains in Honduras. The country's Permanent Emergency Commission says three men died Monday while trying to cross rain-swollen streams or rivers. And one teenage boy was killed and an 11year-old injured when their house partially collapsed in the capital Tegucigalpa on Monday. Honduras has been hit by heavy rains for about a week. Authorities sav three people died in various parts of the country after being hit by lightning last week.

18 WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Campus Life

THE FIRST YEAR OUT

Freshman year in college

By DENCIO MANGLONA

eceiving a high school diploma marks the end of study and the beginning of education. Stepping down from the stage and walking back toward their seat, a graduate imagines a celebratory dinner, graduation cards, and other images of joy. Yet, amongst these thoughts lie the next hurdle—the future.

The transition from high school and

The transition from high school and into the rest of one's life is never an easy one. Things that the student is accustomed to—mandatory schooling, some extra-curricular activities, and a prioritized social life—are suddenly replaced with an abundance of responsibilities alongside educational and vocational opportunities. There are many choices available to the graduate after the diploma, one of which is the trying freshman year of college.

Three of the CNMI's very own have much to say about the first year out.

Wishful thinking

When joining an intellectually-charged environment such as a college campus, a student can enter wanting one thing but may end up discovering his or her true passion.

Going to college, Mount Carmel High School graduate In Chul Ha knew what he wanted. Ha had big dreams. "Military, Marines. Once I got out of college I would serve my time." Instead of immediately reporting to a military academy, however, he decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in business first.

He wasn't the only student to know what he wanted, though.

Frank Yeung graduated from Marianas Baptist Academy similarly minded. He traveled to southern California last Fall and attended classes at Pensacola Community College. He then transferred to the University of Southern California pursuing a business major. "Graduate and own a business, that's the end goal," said Yeung.

Seong Bin Lee, another Marianas Baptist Academy graduate, will be starting his freshman year at a New York University campus. "I'm definitely excited. Maybe it's because I'm going to a country I've never been to or because I 'm going to continue my education, I'm not sure."

He, like many other freshman, have an area of interest, but is currently unsure of what he wants to study over the long term. "My major is political science, but I'm really interested in business so I'm not sure of what I should do. I might double major or change it entirely.

From 'culture shock' to 'college shock'

With college life, academics is only half the battle. Individual responsibilities combined with social immersion changes "culture shock" into "college shock." The way a student deals with these stresses is key.

"For laundry I had to call my mom and ask for directions on how to do it. For cooking, I don't really cook. I eat at the caf[eteria]." For Ha, his more independent life involved many firsts. "You just take care of yourself I guess. You just learn. It's like learning how to ride a bike, I don't know. You just teach yourself and you keep going."

By slowly establishing a network of people you can rely on, what seems like



"Graduate and own a business, that's the end goal," says Frank Yeung.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Marianas Baptist Academy graduate Seong Bin Lee will be starting his freshman year at a New York University campus



Солтявитер рното Mount Carmel High School graduate In Chul Ha knew what he wanted: join the military.

Center opens in Hawaii to serve Pacific educators

By MONETH G. DEPOSA moneth_deposa@saipantribune.c

The Mid-Continent Research for Education and Learning is opening a new office called The Pacific Center for Changing the Odds in Honolulu, Hawaii this month to provide services to a growing list of clients throughout the region.

McREL is an accredited provider of staff development services in both Hawaii and the CNMI and has long provided services in the Asia-Pacific, including Guam, Tokyo, American Samoa, and Australia.

In a statement, McREL said the Pacific Center for Changing the Odds reflects McREL's vision for improving student outcomes, saying it's not enough to help a few "beat the odds."

"Our goal should be to marshal the resources of the entire community and address what matters most to change the odds, so that every student benefits from a full array of life opportunities," the organization said.

To truly transform the current education system, McREL said it is focusing on five high-leverage, high-payoff areas that, when addressed properly, are most likely to influence student success: guarantee challenging, engaging, and intentional instruction. These include ensuring curricular pathways to success, provide whole-child student supports, create high-performance school cultures, and develop data-driven, "high-reliability" systems.

Saipan Tribune learned that through research and evaluation studies, expert consultation, and professional development, McREL's 120-plus staff members help educators focus on what matters most, implement what works, and develop new innovations, or what's next, in these crucial areas.

The staff of the Pacific center will provide services directly to educators in the region and also help to link McREL's resources with those that already exist in the Pacific educational community to develop collaborative solutions for serving the needs of the region's students.

"Over the past 40-plus years, McREL's core strength has been our ability to learn the needs of local educators and their students and develop research-based solutions for meeting those needs," said McREL president and chief executive officer Tim Waters.

He added that for more than a decade, McREL has relied on this core strength to deliver results for educators in the Pacific region.

"The opening of our Pacific Center for Changing the Odds affirms the strong relationships we already have there, the region's importance to us as an organization, and our commitment to helping educators in the Pacific provide students with a full array of opportunities for life success," added Waters.

The Pacific Center in Hawaii will have three staff employees: Wendy Kekahio, Andrew Kerr, and Deyon

Nagato

Kekahio was a senior analyst at the Kamehameha Schools in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she conducted research and evaluation projects involving culture-based education in indigenous communities while Kerr previously worked as an international education consultant for Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, advising education organizations as well as national and state education agencies throughout the Pacific region on technology and distance education issues.

Nagato, meantime, has served as an Education Officer for the Teacher Education Professional Development Department with Kamehameha schools, where she developed and delivered culture-based education professional development programs for teachers.

McREL said John Kofel, founder and former CEO of PREL and president of the JoDoCo Group, brings decades of experience in serving educators in the Pacific region. He will advise McREL on development of the center, mentor the staff, introduce the center and its staff to leaders in the region, and work with McREL to refine its Pacific region strategies.

"McREL's commitment to the entire Pacific educational community through its Honolulu-based center represents an expanded opportunity to assist educators in their efforts to change the odds for all children and youth," said Kofel.

the undoable became very much possible, according to Yeung. Having friends and a social network is key to adjusting and eventually becoming "stable."

"I had to deal with my landlord and bills, those are a given. But I got to know people in my hall, though. [I got to know] the people at the grocery store, school those guys made things a lot easier."

Sometimes, the answer is simply preparation.

"Yeah, I'm not nervous. Laundry; cooking, although there aren't cooking facilities—I can do all those things already. I'm not worried about that," said Lee.

Discovery

Difficult, trying experiences can change a person, and freshman year is no exception. After weeks of studying and testing, Ha came home and found that he was a saw the world and his place in it in a different light.

"You go...you know...like, oh my God, it is different. I don't know, like, you interact with different people from all over the United States. You hear their life, how they live, their style. Then...I don't know...I'm definitely getting there.

"Yeah, definitely, especially in the sense of the wars out and the purpose of the wars. And hearing actual people who have been out there and high ranking people like generals and admirals. You definitely have a sense of 'oh.' Before you're like 'what am I really fighting for?' and then you get that answer."

Yeung shared similar feelings.

"Stepping out of the family tree wasn't easy. You need to struggle and manage, but at the end of the day you know that you made it on your own."

SAIPAN TRIBUNE WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 **19**

Life & Style

Miss USA: 'I fear no question' since competition

DETROIT (AP)—Rima Fakih said cept it and if not, that's fine." she's learned to fear no question since competing for—and becoming—Miss USA.

That includes questions asked during the May contest in Las Vegas in which the 24-year-old Miss Michigan from the Detroit suburb of Dearborn took the national crown. But it also includes the media interrogation that began afterward, when photos emerged of her pole-dancing in skimpy shorts and a tank top at a Detroit radio show promotional event in 2007.

"Once you're successful, everyone's going to feed on that success," Fakih told The Associated Press on Thursday between events honoring her at Detroit Medical Center, where she's on leave from her job as a marketing representative.

"I've learned to be so proud of who I am to the point where I fear no question," she said. "I have no problem because I know who I am and I feel like it's for the world to either ac-

The Lebanese immigrant's first homecoming since the competition includes an invitation-only gala Friday at Detroit's Westin Book-Cadillac Hotel. It's a fundraiser for The Pink Fund, which provides financial aid for people diagnosed with breast cancer.

The University of Michigan-Dearborn graduate also is scheduled to receive a key to her hometown Saturday and give a talk aimed at young people.

She said she's had a lot of local support from people who knew the poledancing photos were merely part of "a silly morning show" event "for just women." It was meant to be about exercise, she said, not eroticism.

What she and her supporters didn't understand was why the station—and a friend who took those pictures—would send them out "for the world to see."

"I'm not going to deny the pictures they're really (at a) bad angle and they're ugly," she said. "However, they're not what they're trying to make it out to be."

The show's producers said in May they were contacted by representatives of the Miss Universe contest requesting more photographs and information. But the show also noted that the photos were no more provocative than anything on the Miss USA website.

Reginald Lee, the medical center's senior vice president of physician recruitment and development and the man who hired Fakih, said she's handled the adversity well. He's been impressed by her demeanor in the national spotlight-acting much as she did in department meetings.

He was among dozens of colleagues gathered to welcome Fakih at a private reception where video of her crowning was projected onto a wall.

Karen Rychlinski, who worked with Fakih at her previous job recruiting physicians, said Fakih was hardworking and humble, and deserves her success.

"We didn't even know she was competing for Miss Michigan until she won," said Rychlinski, director of

physician relations at Children's Hospital of Michigan. "It's just nice to see someone go after a dream."

Fakih was born in Lebanon and moved to the U.S. as a baby. She was raised in New York and moved to Michigan in 2003.

She said she's proud to be seen "as a different kind of Miss USA."

"I come from an ideal American, melting pot family that has immigrated to this country—becoming citizens and being so proud to be part of a country that has so much opportunity and freedom," she said.

After a world tour that took her to Rwanda and China, Fakih is focused on her next milestone: competing for the Miss Universe crown next month in Las Vegas.

Still, if it all hadn't worked out, she imagines she'd be at the hospital on this day-minus the crown, sash and co-workers who are a little more adoring than usual.

"Thursdays are busy days, so I prob-



Miss USA Rima Fakih reconnects with colleagues at a Detroit hospital, Thursday, July 8, 2010, where she worked before winning her title.

ably won't leave the hospital until 7 or 8 o'clock at night," she said. "I was always a hard worker. That's probably why Miss USA wasn't too difficult for me to do and work so much because I

enjoy it. ... I enjoy being put to the test."

Nolan won't replace Ledger as Joker in 'Batman 3'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Batman is returning, but he won't have the Joker to contend with next time.

Director Christopher Nolan says he will not bring back the Joker, the villain played so maniacally in "The Dark Knight" by the late Heath Ledger that the role earned him an Academy Award a year after his death.

Nolan would not disclose what villain or villains might take on Batman in the next film, due out July 20, 2012, the same weekend that brought the record-breaking \$158.4 million debut of "The Dark Knight" in 2008. "For me, Heath was the definitive

Joker," Nolan said in an interview to

promote "Inception," his sci-fi thriller opening Friday. "It wouldn't feel appropriate to readdress that character."

Ledger died of an accidental prescription drug overdose in January 2008. His death stoked fan interest in "The Dark Knight," which topped \$1 billion at the box office worldwide.

With his supporting-actor win, Ledger became only the second performer ever to earn an Oscar posthumously.

The next "Batman" film will be the third in the current Warner Bros. incarnation of the franchise, which stars Christian Bale as the vigilante superhero.

Jon Bon Jovi injures leg at concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Rocker Jon Bon for an encore, "Livin' On A Prayer." Jovi didn't even need "Something

For The Pain" to finish a concert in his home state of New Jersey, despite tearing a calf muscle toward the end of the show.

Bon Jovi injured himself toward the end of the band's 2 1/2-hour concert at the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on Friday night, then

By LYNN ELBER

AP TELEVISION WRITER

Bon Jovi

I don't need this one."

The singer injured his leg during a cover of the Dave Clark Five

hit "Glad All Over." About halfway through the song, he leaned heavily on his microphone stand to support his injured leg.

'My calf muscle just blew out! Whoa!," he said from the stage. "I got another leg.

A video posted on YouTube limped back and forth across the stage shows the 48-year-old singer limping

back and forth across the stage, flexing his foot as he assures the crowd he's OK.

"Don't you worry, folks," he said. "I ain't got nowhere to go. I'm old. What can I tell you? But I'm still good-lookin'!"

After taking a final bow at the front of the stage with fellow band members, Bon Jovi hobbled off with the help of keyboard player David Bryan, who wrapped his arm around Bon Jovi's back.

A spokeswoman says the band will be able to play the rest of its summer stadium tour and does not anticipate canceling any dates.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

A public engagement: Santana proposes onstage

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Santana is smooth: The guitar god has gotten engaged after proposing onstage to his girlfriend, drummer Cindy Blackman. The proposal came during a tour stop Friday in Tinley Park, Illinois, outside Chicago. His representatives say he popped the question four songs into the concert after a Blackman drum solo. She said yes, and they sealed it with a kiss, which was met with cheers from the crowd. The multiplatinum-selling Grammy winner ended a 34-year marriage to Deborah Santana in 2007. Blackman is a top drummer who has worked with the likes of Lenny Kravitz and Cassandra Wilson. Santana says that he and Blackman are blessed to have found each other and says being in love "is a gift from the universe."

Walters: I'm fully recovered from heart surgery

NEW YORK (AP) — Television personality Barbara Walters says she is "fully recovered" just two months after open heart surgery. Walters made her first TV appearance Monday since the procedure in May to replace a faulty valve. She checked in with her fellow panelists on ABC daytime talk

show "The View." Walters said from her Manhattan apartment that she was never in serious discomfort from the surgery. In the studio, her co-hosts marveled at her robust appearance. Joy Behar said, "You look fine." The 80vear-old Walters will take the rest of the summer off. She says she will rejoin her comrades when "The View" begins its new season in September. "The View" also stars Whoopi Goldberg, Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Sherri Shepherd.

Kim Cattrall gets fellowship from UK university

LONDON (AP) — Kim Cattrall has swapped sleek Manhattan for gray Liverpool to accept an honorary fellowship from a university in her English home town. The "Sex and the City" star was named a fellow of Liverpool John Moores University in northwest England on Monday in recognition of her contribution to the arts. The 53-yearold actress was born in the English port city but was raised largely in Canada. She told hundreds of graduating students packed into Liverpool's Anglican cathedral that the honor was "a dream come true." Wearing academic cap and gown, Cattrall told the audience that she was proud of her Liverpool roots, and said "whoever said 'you can't go home again' didn't come from Liverpool."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TV comedies aren't what they used to be, and viewers and the industry are signaling that's just fine with them.

Of the six Emmy nominees for best comedy series announced Thursday, none is a traditional three-camera, laugh track- augmented production. And one, Fox's "Glee," is a freshman hit that takes off in completely new directions.

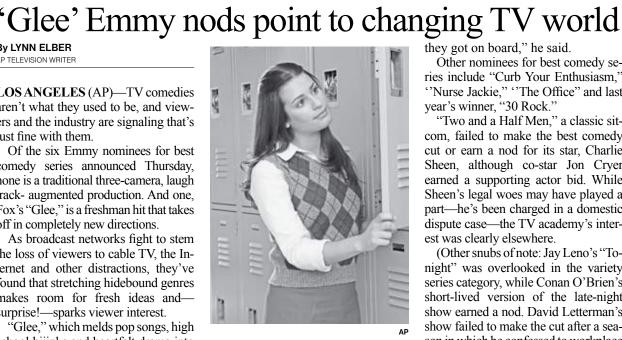
As broadcast networks fight to stem the loss of viewers to cable TV, the Internet and other distractions, they've found that stretching hidebound genres makes room for fresh ideas andsurprise!—sparks viewer interest.

"Glee," which melds pop songs, high school hijinks and heartfelt drama into a rousing hour, emerged as the mostnominated series with 19 bids, including best comedy series and seven acting nods for its cast and guest stars.

Another new show that's made a splash with the audience, ABC's "Modern Family," strolled away with 14 nominations. The sweetly skewed take on life and relationships today earned a best comedy nod and an impressive six acting bids.

Neither show shies away from delicate topics, whether an older man with a hot young wife and gay parenting in "Modern Family" or a gay teenager's difficult path to acceptance in "Glee."

"I would say it's the most inclusive



In this 2009 file photo originally released by Fox, Lea Michele is shown in a scene from, "Glee." Michele was nominated Thursday, July 8, 2010 for best actress in a comedy for her role in "Glee." The program was also nominated for best comedy. The 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards will be held on Sunday, Aug. 29.

Emmy year ever," said Ryan Murphy, "Glee" creator and executive producer. "Ten years ago, none of these shows would have been nominated, none of those actors would have been nominated. ... I think it shows the academy is perhaps a little more open and liberal and embracing of different values."

"But the world is changing, and

they got on board," he said.

Other nominees for best comedy series include "Curb Your Enthusiasm," "Nurse Jackie," "The Office" and last year's winner, "30 Rock."

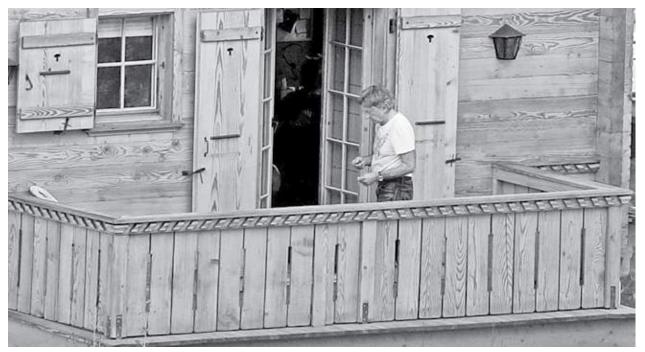
"Two and a Half Men," a classic sitcom, failed to make the best comedy cut or earn a nod for its star, Charlie Sheen, although co-star Jon Cryer earned a supporting actor bid. While Sheen's legal woes may have played a part—he's been charged in a domestic dispute case—the TV academy's interest was clearly elsewhere.

(Other snubs of note: Jav Leno's "Tonight" was overlooked in the variety series category, while Conan O'Brien's short-lived version of the late-night show earned a nod. David Letterman's show failed to make the cut after a season in which he confessed to workplace affairs and a blackmail attempt.)

Drama series are also richly varied, and the academy opened its arms for the final season of "Lost" and, uncharacteristically, for a fantasy series, the vampire saga "True Blood."

Other drama nominees are last year's winner, "Mad Men," "Breaking Bad," "Dexter" and newcomer "The Good Wife."

"It really feels awesome there are so many good shows on television right now, and Damon and I feel that we're in a sort of renaissance period for TV drama," said Carlton Cuse, who shares executive producer duties on "Lost" with Damon Lindelof.



Polanski free, Swiss reject **US** extradition request

GSTAAD, Switzerland (AP)—In a stunning ruling, Roman Polanski was declared a free man on Monday—no longer confined to house arrest in his Alpine villa after Swiss authorities rejected a U.S. request for his extradition because of a 32-year-old sex conviction.

The decision left the Oscar-winning director free to return to France and the life of a celebrity, albeit one unable to visit the United States.

Hours after the ruling was announced, Polanski's assistant said he had left his multimillion-dollar chalet with his family. Half-empty glasses seen on a back porch testified to a hasty exit.

"Mr. Polanski can now move freely," Swiss Justice Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf declared. "He's a free man."

Switzerland, which arrested the 76-

year-old Polanski last September as he arrived receive a lifetime achievement award at a Zurich film festival, blamed U.S. authorities for its decision, citing a possible "fault in the U.S. extradition request."

The United States failed to provide confidential testimony to refute defense arguments the filmmaker had actually served his sentence before fleeing Los Angeles three decades ago, Widmer-Schlumpf said.

The Swiss decision for now ends the United States' long pursuit of Polanski, who has been a fugitive since fleeing sentencing for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. But Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley said his office will try again to have Polanski extradited if he is arrested in

another country with a favorable extradition treaty.

Beyond the legal issue, the extradition request was complicated and diplomatically sensitive because of Polanski's status as a cultural icon in France and Poland, where he holds dual citizenship, and his history as a Holocaust survivor whose first wife Sharon Tate was murdered in 1969 by followers of cult leader Charles Manson in California.

France, where the filmmaker has spent much of his time, does not extradite its own citizens and Polanski has had little trouble traveling throughout Europe—although he has stayed away from Britain.

The U.S. cannot appeal the decision, but Polanski is still a fugitive in the In this April 24, 2010 file photo film director Roman Polanski walks on the balcony of his chalet named "Milky Way", where he has been under house arrest, in Gstaad, Switzerland.

"That warrant remains outstanding," Los Angeles Superior Court spokesman Allan Parachini said, adding that Polanski could be arrested and sent to the U.S. if he traveled to another country that has an extradition treaty with the United States.

In Washington, State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said the Obama administration was disappointed by the Swiss action. "The United States believes that the rape of a 13year-old child by an adult is a crime, and we continue to pursue justice in this case," Crowley said.

In Los Angeles, Cooley, who is running for state attorney general, called the decision a "disservice to justice and other victims as a whole." He accused the Swiss of using the issue of the confidential testimony as an excuse to set Polanski free.

"To justify their finding to deny extradition on an issue that is unique to California law regarding conditional examination of a potentially unavailable witness is a rejection of the competency of the California courts," Cooley said. "The Swiss could not have found a smaller hook on which to hang their hat."

A top Justice Department official said the U.S. extradition request was completely supported by treaty, facts and the law. The department is "deeply disappointed" by the Swiss rejection and will review its options, said Lanny Breuer, assistant attorney general in charge of the department's criminal division.

The decision drew cheers and jeers on both sides of the Atlantic.

"The great Franco-Polish director can now freely rediscover his loved ones and devote himself fully to the pursuit of his artistic activities," said French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner.

His Polish counterpart Radek Sikorski expressed satisfaction with the Swiss decision, saying that "a solution was found that respects the complex legal considerations and personal circumstances of the case of Mr. Polanski.'

At Polanski's multi-million dollar Alpine chalet the shutters were open but there was no sign of movement inside hours after the Swiss decision was announced

A woman who answered the intercom and identified herself only as "Mr. Polanski's assistant" said the director had left with his wife and two young children, Morgane and Elvis. She declined to say where Polanski had gone or whether he would return.

Glasses stood half-empty glasses on the porch, where neighbors say Polanski was having a meal around noon.

Asked whether Polanski had left the home after being freed Monday from the electronic tags that monitored his movements during his house arrest on \$4.5 million bail, a police spokeswoman, Ursula Stauffer, said: "Mr. Polanski is a free man. It's not the job of the police to keep track of his movements."

Widmer-Schlumpf, the Swiss justice minister, said the decision was not meant to excuse Polanski's crime, adding the issue was "not about deciding whether he is guilty or not guilty."

The government said extradition had to be rejected "considering the persisting doubts concerning the presentation of the facts of the case."

In justifying the decision, Switzerland also invoked what it called the "public order"—a lofty notion meaning that governments should ensure their citizens are safe from arbitrary abuse of the law.

The Justice Ministry cited the fact that U.S. authorities hadn't pursued Polanski in Switzerland previously, even though he's often visited the country and bought a house here in 2006. It also stressed that the victim, Samantha Geimer, who long ago publicly identified herself, has joined in Polanski's bid for dismissal.

Attorney says Stamos had fling with 17-year-old

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP)—A woman charged with conspiring to bilk actor John Stamos of hundreds of thousands of dollars had a brief romantic fling with him when she was a 17-yearold high school student during a spring break trip to Florida in 2004, an attorney said Monday.

Defense lawyer Sarah Henderson made the allegation during opening arguments in the U.S. District Court trial of Allison Coss and Scott Sippola, even though the presiding judge last week ruled that testimony about whether the "ER" and "Full House" star had an intimate relationship with Coss would not be allowed. Opening statements are not testimony and cannot be considered by jurors as evidence but allow attorneys to outline the case they will present.

Stamos, who attended the trial's opening day, declined comment to The Associated Press but is expected to testify.

His attorney, William Sobel, issued a statement through publicist Matt Polk that said: "The allegations made today in the courtroom by the defendants' attorneys during opening statements will not be proven because they are simply untrue."

Polk declined further comment.

Coss, 24, and Sippola, 31, both of Marquette, are accused of conspiring to extort \$680,000 from Stamos by telling him they had photos of him with cocaine and strippers. Prosecutors con-



In a Monday, Nov. 16, 2009 photo, actor John Stamos is honored with star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

tend the pictures don't exist, and FBI agents testified Monday they found no such photos while searching the defendants' house after their arrest.

Henderson and Assistant U.S. Attorney Maarten Vermaat agreed in their opening statements that Coss and Stamos met in Orlando, Fla., in 2004shortly after Stamos had separated from his wife, actress and supermodel Rebecca Romijn. The couple divorced the next year.

Henderson said Stamos, now 46, noticed Coss and another girl at a club, asked friends to bring them over and later invited the star-struck teens to his hotel room. Stamos ordered a drink for Coss even after she told him she was 17, Henderson said.

Two women who worked as strippers eventually showed up in the room with a bag of cocaine, she said, and Coss and her friend took a picture of Stamos bending over a table where the drugs had been laid out.

Henderson said Stamos and Coss later kissed on a bed and got into a hot tub together after Stamos undressed and Coss stripped to her underwear. She said Stamos offered to perform oral sex on Coss, but she declined. Florida law makes it a second-degree felony for someone 24 or older to have oral sex with anyone 16 or 17 years old. It carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

Stamos eventually became frustrated, broke a bedpost with his hand and left the room before apologizing and inviting Coss to spend the night, which she did, Henderson said.

For the next few years, they maintained a "flirty kind of relationship" by e-mail, Henderson said.

Vermaat also said the two exchanged e-mails "with some regularity" but did not discuss details of the alleged 2004 encounter.

Mel Gibson tape mentions alleged hitting of girlfriend

was heard allegedly acknowledging he hit the mother of his 8-month-old daughter in a recording released Monday by a celebrity news website.

The eight-minute recording posted by RadarOnline.com was purportedly

a phone argument between Gibson and then-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva.

A voice sounding distinctively like the Academy Award-winner was heard "deserved" to be hit after she chastised him for allegedly punching her in the face and breaking two of her teeth.

"What kind of a man is that?" she was heard saying. "Hitting a woman when she's holding a child in her hands? Breaking her teeth twice in the face! What kind of man is that?'

"Oh, you're all angry now!" Gibson allegedly responds. "You know what, you ... (expletive) deserved it!"

Alan Nierob, a spokesman for Gibson, declined comment on the tape. The former couple have been locked in a bitter custody dispute in Los Angeles. The 40-year-old singer

has accused Gibson of domestic vio-

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mel Gibson lence, prompting sheriff's officials to launch an investigation.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Whitmore said investigators will evaluate the recordings. "There apparently are audio re-

> cordings that we will also review," Whitmore said Monday. He declined to say where detectives would obtain the recordings, or if Gibson had been inter-

> > "Everything is part of the investigation," he said. "Anything that is connected

to the case we will investigate."

He said there was no timeframe for the inquiry to be concluded.

After detectives conclude their work, the case will be turned over to the district attorney's office, which will decide whether to pursue criminal charges.

Last week, a recording posted by RadarOnline.com included comments it said came from Gibson telling Grigorieva that she was dressing too provocatively and that it would be her fault if she were raped. He used the N-word at one point.

Fewer people are watching late-night talk shows

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay Leno and David Letterman are in the twilight of their days as late-night TV kings, and it's not clear that any late-night comic will wield that kind of broad influence again.

Late-night ratings sank over the past three months, despite the attention and extraordinary television created over the winter by the drama of Leno taking back "The Tonight Show" from Conan O'Brien.

"Late-night talk shows have been around since the 1950s, and you wonder if they are getting passe with the viewing public," said Brad Adgate, an analyst with Horizon Media.

Competition is a factor. Johnny Carson in his prime never had to worry about a Jon Stewart or George Lopez. Or video games and the Internet. Or, for that matter, his own network. At 11:35 p.m., more people now watch programs saved on their digital video recorders than either Leno and Letterman, the Nielsen Co. said.

Back at NBC, Leno averaged 4 million viewers a night during April, May and June. That's a full 1 million viewers lost to NBC compared to the same three months in 2009. Let-

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Melina

Kanakaredes is taking herself off

CBS said Monday that the

actress has decided to leave the

crime drama after six seasons.

The network expressed disap-

Wednesday to Friday night

There was no word from CBS

on a possible replacement for

Kanakaredes, who played po-

the case for "CSI: NY."



In this March 7, 2010 file photo, Jay Leno arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood,

beneficiary, since his audience of 3.3 million people was off 7 percent from 2009.

An hour later, NBC's Jimmy Fallon and CBS' Craig Ferguson are both down, with Fallon's nightly audience of 2 million last year slipping to 1.64 million. Comedy Central's Stewart and Stephen Colbert are essentially drawing the same numbers as last year.

TBS may be excited about terman wasn't necessarily the O'Brien bringing his fans over

to pause at Lopez's numbers. Lopez, who has the time slot O'Brien will take over, saw his numbers dip by 20 percent to 820,000 a night.

this fall, but they may want Jimmy Kimmel, who was aggressively promoted by his network this spring, and E! Entertainment's Chelsea Handler. ABC's "Nightline" is also up slightly in viewers and Bright spots are ABC's consistently beats Letterman.

Winfrey biopic based on Kitty Kélley book planned

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's quarter-century run on daytime TV may be accompanied by a TV film dramatizing her life.

Veteran producer Larry A. Thompson said Monday the planned two- or four-hour Winfrey film will be based on Kitty Kelley's tell-all biography. Thompson says he has optioned it for six figures.

The TV project is expected to air in September 2011, which would coincide with the end of Winfrey's weekday talk show.

Thompson has produced TV biopics about Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, and Sonny and Cher.

He calls himself "a huge fan" of Winfrey and says he's shopping the project to networks he declined to specify. An unknown will likely be cast to play Winfrey.

A spokesman for Winfrey's



Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala in New

Chicago-based Harpo Productions declined to comment.

ed by the E! News website.

'Die Hard' director pleads guilty in wiretap case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Die developed in an unfair way," Hard" director John McTiernan pleaded guilty Monday to lying to FBI agents and a judge during the investigation of Hollywood private investigator Anthony Pellicano in a wiretapping case.

McTiernan, 59, entered his plea to two counts of making false statements to the FBI and one count of perjury for lying to a federal judge while trying to withdraw a guilty plea. He could face up to a year in prison.

Attorney S. Todd Neal, who represents McTiernan, said the plea will allow his client to appeal certain pretrial rulings made by a federal judge.

"We continue to believe that the charges against him were 15 years in federal prison.

Neal said. "The FBI should not be in the business of ambushing citizens with surprise phone calls in which they ask 'questions' for which they already know the answers."

McTiernan previously pleaded guilty to lying to federal agents in 2006 about the investigation of Pellicano. The director later withdrew that plea, arguing he didn't have adequate legal representation.

Pellicano was convicted in 2008 of wiretapping film producer Charles Roven for Mc-Tiernan and of bugging the phones of celebrities and others to get information for clients.

Pellicano was sentenced to

In this May 3, 2010 file photo. Oprah Winfrey arrives at the

The project was first report-

pointment but said it respected her choice to "move on." The actress says she would treasure the "amazing" friendships she made on "CSI: NY." Kanakaredes' departure was announced just weeks before the shows resumes production on July 28. "CSI: NY" will move from

Kanakaredes closing 'CSI:

NY' case after six years

In this May 17, 2010 file photo, Melina Kanakaredes arrives at the premiere of the film "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time" in Los Angeles.

lice Detective Stella Bonasera. **ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS**

YMCA song won't change despite Y's name change

CHICAGO (AP)—The Village People won't be changing their hit song "Y.M.C.A." just because the YMCA is now known officially as just "the Y." The lead singer of the original group, Victor Willis, released a statement Monday after the Chicago-based U.S. nonprofit announce that it's changing both its logo and name to "the Y." Willis says the change won't affect the song - or the dance that goes along with it, in which participants use their arms to make the shape of each letter. The name switch for the Y comes after more than two years of research indicat-

what the group does. The group's mission is to strengthen communities by focusing on youth development, healthy living and social responsibility.

Bush's boat runs aground on beach in Maine

KENNEBUNK, Maine (AP)— Former President George H.W. Bush's fishing boat ended up high and dry on a beach near his Maine home after it ran aground in thick fog. Fidelity IV became a curiosity for tourists as it sat stranded on Goose Beach at low tide on Monday. Hours later, his staff moved the boat to its dock in

ed many people don't understand Kennebunkport. Bush spokesman Carnegie Hall in New York, has Jim Appleby says the former president and some family members were aboard when the boat ran aground between 3 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. No one was hurt. Appleby says Bush was close to shore in low visibility when a wave pushed his boat onto the beach. As water receded at low tide, tourists walked up and snapped photos of the 38-foot boat.

Olga Guillot, legendary Cuban singer, dead at 86

MIAMI BEACH, Fla. (AP)— Olga Guillot, the legendary Cuban bolero singer who became the first Latin artist to perform at

died. She was 86. The Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's office said Guillot died Monday at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. Guillot was born in Santiago, Cuba, and was first recognized for her singing talent at age 13, when she placed second in a singing contest with her sister. At 20, she performed with Edith Piaf. She left Cuba in 1962, two years after the start of the communist revolution, and settled in Mexico. Over the years, Guillot recorded 14 records that went gold and 10 platinum. She also participated in more than 20 movies, almost always acting as herself.

Bisexual past overshadows couple's close relationship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: My girlfriend, "Donna," and I have shared a wonderful relationship for nearly three years. During her college days she had a sexual encounter with her best female friend. (They had been friends since high school.)

Although they graduated from college five years ago, they continue to see each other. Donna tells me that nothing sexual goes on be-



tween them. Personally, I don't trust her friend. Please help me get over this.

TONY IN WHITTIER

DEAR TONY: Forget about not trusting Donna's longtime friend. Do you trust Donna? You have been together nearly three years and obviously, you talk about everything. Ask her if, after experimenting with her friend, she still has hankerings in that direction. If the answer is no, believe her.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with a lady for the past few months. How do I tell her that I want out without hurting her badly?

I have tried a couple of times to end things, but she gets hysterical, starts crying and accuses me of wanting someone else, which is not true. Please give me some advice.

IN A FIX, PASCAGOULA, MISS.

DEAR IN A FIX: If you want out, prepare yourself for her emotional reaction. As you can see, she does not take this kind of news well. Tell her again that you want to end the relationship. When she starts crying and accusing you of wanting someone else, hand her a tissue and tell her you think she's "great," but you're not ready to settle down with anyone right now.

DEAR ABBY: My husband doesn't like to go to funerals. In the 25 years we have been together, I think he has only been to three—and that was only because he had been asked to be a pallbearer. Fortunately, we haven't had to deal with many losses on either side of the family.

We were talking recently and he shared that he would not go to his own mother's funeral! They have a very close relationship, and he explained that he only wants to remember her in life, not in a coffin. I feel he should set aside his own uncomfortable feelings and be there for the rest of the family—especially his brothers and sisters. What do you think?

PAM IN SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

DEAR PAM: Your husband's feelings may change when the inevitable happens. However, whatever he decides—and I cannot stress this strongly enough—you should back him up, be there for him and not judge him.

DEAR ABBY: I recently completed my first year of college. During the year, I met my current boyfriend. My goal this summer is to have him meet my parents. Because we live six hours apart, I thought it would be best if he stayed over at my parents' house—in the guest room, of course.

My father objected to it, but said that if it were deemed acceptable by you, he would reconsider. What do you say, Abby? Is there really a problem with having one's boyfriend sleep over at one's parents' house?

CURIOUS CO-ED

DEAR CURIOUS CO-ED: If the sleeping accommodations are as you have described—and as long as there isn't any hanky-panky going on in the wee hours of the morning—I see no problem with it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440. Los Angeles, CA 90069.

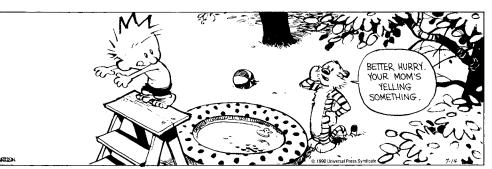
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22 WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

Garfield® By Bill Waterson









Adam@home

28 Exam

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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

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For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-STUMPED? tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Fox, 44; Jackie Earle Haley, 49; Jane Lynch, 50; Polly Bergen, 80

Happy Birthday: It is a good year to reassess your situation, financially, professionally and economically. You have to be smart about the future. Look at getting the most for the least and you will end up being a leader, instead of a follower. Recognize what you can do yourself and what you need help doing. Your numbers are 4, 11, 16, 21, 27, 38, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An emotional matter that concerns one of your peers can upset matters at work and at home. Strive for perfection in all that you do to avoid criticism. Don't limit your options because you don't think you have enough experience. OOOOO



47 Harvest

48 "Say It

49 Greek

52 Expert

game

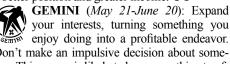
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53 Shell

- So"

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TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Matters pertaining to children or social acquaintances will raise some doubt. Be direct. Work responsibilities may get to you but your ability to deal with matters efficiently will lead to a better position and greater income. **33**

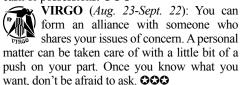


enjoy doing into a profitable endeavor. Don't make an impulsive decision about someone. This person is likely to have something to offer you that you will value in the future.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to be on your toes and ready to make changes if called for. Love is on the rise, so alterations at home that accommodate your

personal needs should be put into play. Don't let uncertainty confuse you.

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You cannot let someone else redirect you for his or her own purposes. Take control of your financial situation as well as your prospects for the future. Emotional issues will be costly if you lend cash or possessions.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be smart about the way you do things, especially if it will affect people you are close to. Taking matters into your own hands without getting the approval of others will have its repercussions. A partnership may be in jeopardy if you overreact or are indulgent.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have something to offer that you've been sitting on because you don't think it's ready. You are losing valuable time while others pass you by. Get on with whatever you've been working toward and present and promote. **OOOO**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There is the chance you'll meet with opposition, emotional deception, added burdens and anguish if you don't pull your weight. Find a way to turn an investment into a valuable commodity. Consider real estate or projects that can make money from home. 😂

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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cannot lose as long as you don't hesitate.

You have plenty of passion, lots of interest and certainly the opportunity to bring people together and to turn something small into something large. Money is in the picture and a loving

partnership is apparent. **OCOCO** AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have more to offer than you realize. Let your experience speak for itself. You will be offered favors for your knowledge and will impress

someone who interests you as a partner. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There is work to be done but with it comes satisfaction, recognition and advancement. You have what it takes to step into a leadership position. The time to make both professional and personal change is now.

Birthday Baby: You will not take a back seat to anyone or anything. You like to be in control, you set a high standard and you aren't willing to accept second best.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Caturday's CHDOKH Answer

| Saturday's Suduku Answer | | | | | | | | | | |
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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword

| CANADA PAVILION AT EXPO 2010 Solution | | | | | | | | | tion: | 7 let | ters | | | |
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WHATZIT Solution: Split hairs

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> TEL: (670) 433-0419 Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

VICENTE MUNA

CIVIL ACTION

MANGLONA,

NOTICE OF HEARING/ NOTICE TO

Date: August 20, 2010 Judge: Ramona V. Manglona

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioners, Rita A. Manglona and Patrick A. Manglona, filed a Petition in the Superior Court praying that they be appointed Administrators of the Estate of Vicente Muna Manglona, deceased, to determine the heirs of the decedent and distribute any assets of decedent. The attorney of record is Janet King, at P.O. Box 520030, San Jose Village, Tinian MP 96952, Tel. (670) 433-0419; or P.O. Box 504340, D'Torres Building, Saipan, MP 96950, at Tel. (670) 235-8060.

The hearing on the Petition is set for Augus 20, 2010, in a courtroom of the Superior Court, Tinian, at 9:00 a.m. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having claims against the estate or against the decedent, should file their claims with the Clerk of Court for the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice

DATED this 7th day of July, 2010.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq. O' Connor Berman Dotts & Banes Second Floor, Marianas Business

Second Floor, Marianas One Nauru Loop P.O. Box 501969 Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. No. (670) 234-5684 Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff Wells Fargo Financia

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, NO. 09-0481

ALBERT U. CHARFAUROS and FRANCISCA C. CHARFAUROS,

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated June 10, 2010, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Albert U. Charfauros and Francisco C. Charfauros interests in Lot 001, G 151, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on ter conditions set forth herein below

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Tuesday, July 27, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 001 G 151, is described as Lot 001 G 151, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 G 04, the original of which was recorded 27 MAR 1986 as Document No. 86-511 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Fabre of the O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes at Tel. No. 234-5684.

Warranties and Covenants. The property in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied including but not limited to warranties o title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

 A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.
Consistent with the laws, of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale to withdraw the property listed for sale ir this Notice before sale or before a bid fo such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to

reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) <u>Bids.</u> Bids may be submitted in advance.

The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such persor has submitted an advance bid

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencemen thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice

Dated this 28th of June, 2010.

/s/Gregory J. Koebel O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Court-Appointed Auctioneer

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

COW LICK DREAD RING

Ortiz wins HR Derby with 11-homer final



ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) David Ortiz believes his power swing is all the way back. After

a big finish in the Home Run Derby, Boston's beloved slugger has a trophy

Big Papi won his first derby title Monday night, hitting 11 homers in the final round to beat Florida's Hanley Ramirez at Angel Stadium.

Showing plenty of potency in the fierce swing that once made him one of the majors' most feared hitters, the Red Sox star put a relentless series of drives into the elevated stands above the rightfield wall.

With Yankees bench coach Tony Pena crossing rivalry lines to feed fastballs straight into his wheelhouse, Ortiz hit 21 homers in the first two rounds of his fourth derby before holding off Ramirez to emerge from a field missing most of baseball's top power hitters.

"This is my fourth time, so I just kind of used the experience," Ortiz said. "I wanted to come here and make sure the fans enjoy what we do."

Ortiz triumphantly held up the trophy featuring two crossed bats. He dedicated his performance to former major league pitcher Jose Lima, a Dominican Republic native who passed away in May after paramedics found him in cardiac arrest at his Southern California home.

Ramirez, Ortiz's fellow Dominican slugger and former Boston teammate, matched Papi's 21 homers in the first two rounds, pulling most of his shots over the left-field wall. But Ortiz became just the second slugger to reach double digits in the final round, while Ramirez managed only five.

"It's good for him," Ramirez said. "He's been through a tough time. I know he's going to come back in the second half."

Ortiz reached the derby semifinals in 2005 and 2006, but hadn't been back in the field since. His entire career was on the skids after he struggled in 2009 and again in April, but Boston's longtime star is back on his game with 18 homers and 57 RBIs this season, earning his sixth All-Star berth.

"I've been dealing with so many things the past few years," Ortiz said. "Coming back here (to another All-Star game), I want to thank the players for giving me the opportunity to be here. This is a job that we have, but it's called a game. That's what I try to do during the season - have fun with my teammates and make sure everything goes the right way.'

Milwaukee's Corey Hart and Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera were eliminated in the second round, with Hart failing to connect after hitting 13 in the opening round and then waiting about 90 minutes for his second crack. Ortiz finished with 13 in the second round after getting off to a fast start.

Ortiz gave ample credit to Pena's pitching after he coolly outslugged his younger competitors.

"Whenever we played the Yankees, I saw (Pena) throw batting practice,' Ortiz said. "As soon as I found out he was going to be here, I said to him. 'Hey, Tony, can you pitch to me?' And he said, 'Fine. It's not a problem. I'm going to throw to (Nick) Swisher, but



I can throw to you, too.' It's the Home Run Derby, and we're here for the fans to have fun. It's not a Yankees and Boston kind of situation, so let's do it."

The derby field wasn't exactly a murderers' row, featuring five first-time competitors and no returning champions.

Ryan Howard, Albert Pujols, Alex Rodriguez and defending champion Prince Fielder all sat out. So did major league homers leader Jose Bautista, NL co-leaders Adam Dunn and Joey Votto, and Texas' Josh Hamilton, who hit 28 homers in a single round at Yankee Stadium two years ago.

Still, eight sluggers took aim at the artificial rock pile, moss and trees behind the center-field wall at Angel Stadium, the long-standing Orange County park that underwent a thorough renovation in recent years.

The Anaheim crowd booed Ortiz during pregame introductions, still remembering several years of postseason clashes between his Red Sox and the Los Angeles Angels. But Ortiz hadn't homered at Angel Stadium since hitting a shot during the 2007 AL division series.

Ortiz hit eight homers in the opening round, which included plateside delivery of a towel and a refreshing drink from laughing Tampa Bay closer Rafael Soriano.

Ortiz, who has been known for goofing around during the derby silliness in recent years, gave a towel break during the final round to Ramirez, who he said is "like a son to me." Ramirez was traded to Florida when the Red Sox acquired ace Josh Beckett and Mike Lowell.

"Of course, I wish Hanley would be playing on our team, like he was supposed to be, but there are things we can't control," Ortiz said. "The move that the Red Sox made was good for both sides.'

Ortiz took control of the last round with consecutive homers on his first four swings. Ramirez couldn't catch up, hitting three straight before ending it by making outs on six of his last seven swings.

Hart highlighted the first round with six homers on his first eight swings. He had 11 on his first 15 whacks against Sandy Guerrero, the Nashville Sounds' hitting coach.

St. Louis' Matt Holliday, the Yankees' Swisher, Toronto's Vernon Wells and Arizona's Chris Young didn't escape the first round.

Tour de France shaping up as 3-way fight



MORZINE, France (AP)—The Tour de France is shaping up as a three-way fight be-

tween race leader Cadel Evans of Australia, defending champion Alberto Contador of Spain and Andy Schleck of Luxembourg.

Evans leads Schleck by just 20 seconds after Schleck won the hardest stage so far—a grueling Alpine trek on Sunday where Lance Armstrong cracked.

"Getting the yellow jersey at the Tour is always something special," the 33-year-old Evans said on Monday's rest day in Morzine. "To swap the (world champion's) rainbow jersey for the yellow jersey is a rare feat that I've had the honor to experience."

With two-time Tour winner Contador short of his best form, Evans may never have a better chance to win the Tour, and he is in no mood to take chances after slightly hurting his left forearm in a minor crash on Sunday.

"The legs are still going, which is the important thing. That is what the main concern is right now," Evans said. "It's a little bit uncomfortable right now. Hopefully with a good night's sleep I should be all right. I'll try to take it as easy as possible, and get as much physiotherapy as possible on my arm."

of Tuesday's ninth stage.

The punishing Alpine route features two category 1 climbs, and a tougher one that is beyond classification: a mammoth 25.5-kilometer (15.9-mile) ride up the Col de la Madeleine, one of the Tour's most redoubtable mountain passes.

"It will be a really hard and complicated stage, and we should see the main contenders in the Madeleine," Contador said Monday, adding that he welcomes more attacks from Schleck and others to increase the overall speed of the race.

"Yes, it's possible, but that would be good for me," he said, speaking through an interpreter. "Maybe other riders will feel more confident and that will be good because then we have a stronger rhythm."

That will hardly thrill Armstrong after what happened to him during the eighth stage.

The 38-year-old Texan finished in 61st place after laboring in stifling heat, hauling his battered body up from crashes and up grueling mountain passes that used to seem so easy during his heyday.

Armstrong is more than 13 minutes behind Evans—an impossible gap to close in two weeks.

"He can't come back from it ... espe-

Contador trails by 61 seconds ahead cially against some of the best climbers in the world," Armstrong's former U.S. Postal teammate Frankie Andreu said.

> It was a collective victory for all three Tour contenders to see the 38-year-old Armstrong plummet down the standings to 39th place.

> "This time it was Contador, Evans and Schleck who decided to eliminate the threat," Andreu said. "Armstrong's always a threat, so they had to ride on the front to make sure he's gone for good."

> With British rider Bradley Wiggins also out of sorts—Wiggins was fourth in last year's Tour but is now 2:45 back in 14th—the path to the Paris podium on July 25 is clearing for the main contenders.

"That's like a mission accomplished. So it's one or two less guys to worry about," Andreu said. "Wiggins got dropped, so it starts reducing the number of contenders."

Schleck looks the more comfortable of the three main contenders, with Armstrong's RadioShack manager Johan Bruyneel observing that Contador does not look as strong as last year.

Contador could not match Schleck's hilltop acceleration on the final part of Sunday's climb.

Schleck says he saw Contador in "difficulty" for the first time and got a big morale boost by winning Stage 8.

"Before, I have not seen him in difficulty yet, and I think yesterday he was," Schleck said Monday. "I was surprised he couldn't follow, to be honest, because the day before I had a really strong impression of him."

Contador, who had to regularly answer questions during last year's Tour as to whether he could race on the same team as Armstrong and fulfill his own ambitions, dealt with Schleck's opinion by playing down its impact.

"For me, he is still one the biggest favorites of this Tour de France," Contador said. "You might think (what he said) affects my feelings, but it doesn't change anything.

Schleck, however, is at another major disadvantage to both Evans and Contador, who are both much faster than him on time trials. Schleck. whose brother Frank was injured early on in the race and had to pull out because of a broken left collarbone, also has one less teammate to help him in the mountains.

The 25-year-old Schleck knows he will have to be in the lead on July 24 for the final 52-kilometer (32.2-mile) time trial if he is to stand a chance of winning the Tour.

"The only thing I know is that I will need to be in vellow for the time trial." he said. "I can't say for now if I will need one minute or two minutes."

Stern says Miami's Big 3 acted within rights



Dwyane Wade, left, Chris Bosh, center, and LeBron James, right ,greet fans during an event at the American Airlines Arena in Miami Friday, July 9, 2010.

By TIM REYNOLDS

NBA commissioner David Stern congratulated LeBron James on his decision. He just wishes it came without 'The Decision."

Stern said Monday he would have advised James to tell the Cleveland Cavaliers of his choice to leave for the Miami Heat earlier than he did, and that the two-time MVP's public announcement shouldn't have come in a made-for-television special that attracted nearly 10 million viewers.

The commissioner said James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh violated no league rules in discussing free agency among themselves, and that the league isn't investigating how the Heat managed to land all three. That doesn't mean Stern didn't take issue with certain elements of free agency, particularly James' decision to say he was leaving Cleveland on ESPN.

"The advice that he received on this was poor," Stern said after NBA owners met in Las Vegas. "The performance was fine. His honesty and his integrity, I think, shined through. But this decision was ill-conceived."

Meanwhile, Stern also took action against Cleveland owner Dan Gilbert, fining him \$100,000 for words that the commissioner described as "a little bit extreme."

Gilbert released a sharp-tongued statement shortly after James' announcement last Thursday, calling it "narcissistic" and "cowardly behavior." Later, Gilbert told The Associated Press in a phone interview that he felt James quit on the Cavs during the playoffs the past two years.

Even Rev. Jesse Jackson received a rebuke of sorts from Stern.

Jackson responded to Gilbert's remarks on Sunday by saying the Cavs owner sees James as a "runaway slave" and that Gilbert's comments put the player in danger. "He speaks as an owner of LeBron and not the owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers," Jackson said in a release from his Chicago-based civil-rights group.

Stern said Jackson is a friend and ally to the league, but as with Gilbert, felt the reaction simply went too far.

"However well-meaning Jesse may be in the premise on this one, he is, as he rarely is, mistaken," Stern said. "And I would have told him so had he called me before he issued his statement, rather than this morning. But he is a good friend of the NBA and our players. Has worked arduously on many good causes and we work together in many matters."

James, Wade and Bosh all decided last week to play together in Miami, working out six-year deals after talking with each other at times throughout the free-agent process. Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said Sunday he wanted the NBA to examine how all three joined the same team.

But in the Monday meeting of the league's Board of Governors, no formal complaints were levied, Stern said.

"Our players, having negotiated for the right to be free agents at some point in their career, are totally within their rights to seek employment with any other team," Stern said. "That's something we agreed to. That's something we embrace. That's our system."

Further, Stern said James was "entitled" to make his move to South Florida. He also congratulated Miami for its free-agent approach.

"Miami did a pretty good job of clearing out cap space and putting together a plan," Stern said.

One representative from each team met with Stern and NBA officials on

Monday, where other conversations besides free agency included an update on the league's labor deal, negotiations with the players' association, and revenue sharing. Owners want a "much revised" system, Stern reiterated, while saying the union would like the present system to remain largely intact.

"Our finances are what they are," said Stern, who added that the league lost about \$370 million this past season.

The league will contact the union later this summer, "to continue our dialogue," Stern said. The current collective bargaining agreement is set to expire at the end of the 2010-11 season, and a lockout is possible on July 1.

"We are very anxious to make an agreement," Stern said.

Cavs owner defends stance on LeBron

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert got in another word about the messy, heartbreaking split with LeBron James.

He promised it's his last one.

It had better be or NBA commissioner David Stern could fine him another \$100,000.

On Monday, Gilbert said he strongly disagrees with Rev. Jesse Jackson's criticism of his recent comments about James, who announced last week he was leaving Cleveland after seven seasons to join fellow All-Stars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh on the Miami Heat.

Shortly after James' announcement, Gilbert fired off an incendiary letter to Cavs fans, vilifying the 25-year-old and calling his decision to bolt Cleveland as "narcissistic" and "cowardly behavior." He also guaranteed his team would win an NBA title "BE-FORE THE SELF-TITLED FOR-MER 'KING' WINS ONE."

Gilbert took it a step further when he later told The Associated Press in a phone interview that he felt the NBA's two-time MVP quit on the Cavs during the playoffs the past two years, and that James "has gotten a free pass." He also said James should be held accountable for his actions.

Jackson responded to Gilbert's re-

marks on Sunday by saying the Cavs owner sees James as a "runaway slave" and that Gilbert's comments put the player in danger.

"He speaks as an owner of LeBron and not the owner of the Cleveland Cavaliers," Jackson said in a release from his Chicago-based civil-rights group. "His feelings of betrayal personify a slave master mentality. He sees LeBron as a runaway slave. This is an owner employee relationship between business partners—and LeBron honored his contract."

In a statement released by the team on Monday, Gilbert tried to put an end to the issue.

"I strongly disagree with Rev. Jesse Jackson's recent comments and we are not going to engage in any related discussion on it," Gilbert said. "Going forward, we're very excited about the Cavaliers and the positive future of our region."

Gilbert is attending the owners' meetings in Las Vegas, where Stern fined him \$100,000 for the "inappropriate" comments about James.

"He was completely correct in expressing his disappointment," Stern said, adding that Gilbert's statement and the sentiments he expressed in a follow-up interview with the AP were "a little bit extreme."

NBA BRIEFS

Chandler says he's headed from **Bobcats to Raptors**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Charlotte Bobcats center Tyson Chandler said Monday night he's been told he's being traded to the Raptors amid a report Toronto is also poised to send Hedo Turkoglu to the Phoenix Suns. Chandler wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press that his agent, Jeff Schwartz, informed him that he's being traded. A Bobcats spokesman said no deal is complete, and general manager Rod Higgins didn't return messages seeking comment. The Toronto Star reported the Suns would get Turkoglu and send guard Leandro Barbosa to the Raptors. Toronto would then move guard Jose Calderon and forward Reggie Evans to Charlotte for Chandler and forward Boris Diaw. The report said the complicated deal is pending league approval and could also include a trade exception for Charlotte. The trade would help the Raptors rebuild after losing Chris Bosh to Miami in free agency. Turkoglu would get a new start after his disappointing one year in Toronto and the Suns would acquire a playmaker after losing free agent Amare Stoudemire to New York. Calderon would give Charlotte a starting point guard after Raymond Felton signed with the Knicks. Dumping Chandler's \$12.7 million salary would give owner Michael Jordan's team flexibility to

make future moves.

Heat, Timberwolves finalize Beasley trade

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Michael

Beasley's off-the-court issues were well-documented. So were his on-thecourt talents. In the end, Minnesota Timberwolves president David Kahn felt the latter far outweighed the former. The Timberwolves and Heat completed their trade Monday, sending Beasley north to Minnesota for two secondround picks and cash considerations. "We had to do this," Kahn said Monday night in a conference call from Las Vegas, where the Timberwolves are playing in the summer league. "It just made too much sense." The Heat made the move to clear cap room to re-sign Dwyane Wade and bring in Chris Bosh and LeBron James. The Heat get Minnesota's second-round picks in 2011 and 2014. Beasley was a much-celebrated No. 2 overall selection in 2008, getting edged out by Derrick Rose for the top spot in the draft after a brilliant freshman season at Kansas State. But he never seemed to be completely comfortable playing in the shadow of Wade in Miami during a two-year stint that was marred by two rocky offseasons, first when he was kicked out of the NBA rookie symposium and fined for rulebreaking, then last summer when he received substance-abuse treatment in Houston.

B Brett Favre shows some speed at workout



HATTIESBURG, Miss.

(AP)—Brett Favre had finished throwing to the youngsters at Oak Grove High School and poked his

head out of the field house to see a few reporters standing near his truck, waiting to ask him about his future plans.

Favre ducked back inside and, moments later, someone else jumped into Favre's truck and drove it around to the front of the building Monday morning. With a grin on his face, the 40-year-old quarterback ran out of the building, hopped in and drove off with nothing more than a playful wave to the waiting reporters.

Whether it's throwing passes to high school receivers or dodging members of the media, Favre looks like he's getting along just fine on that surgically repaired ankle.

Favre has yet to tell the Minnesota Vikings if he will return for a 20th sea-

son in the NFL, but most people with settled in. Favre had one of the best the team and around the NFL would be stunned if he did not come back. He in completion percentage (68.4), quarhad arthroscopic surgery on his left ankle in May and has been throwing to receivers at the high school for a few weeks, lending an air of inevitability to yet another sequel to the summer blockbuster "Favre-a-palooza," as Vikings tight end Visanthe Shiancoe likes to call it.

"He ain't working out for no reason," Vikings quarterback Tarvaris Jackson said recently. "I welcome him back. There's nothing I can do about it so I'm going to welcome him back and hopefully get to the Super Bowl."

The Vikings have made it clear to Favre that they would be fine with a similar timeline to last season, when he joined the team after it broke training camp in Mankato, Minn., in time for the second game of the preseason.

It didn't take long for him to get

seasons of his career, with career bests terback rating (107.2) and fewest interceptions (7), while throwing for 33 TDs and 4,202 yards to lead the Vikings to an NFC North title.

Minnesota lost to New Orleans in the NFC title game. Favre threw for 310 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions, the last coming in Saints territory at the end of regulation that put the game into overtime.

Favre took a tremendous beating in that game and said afterward that he would not take long to make a decision on returning for the second year of his contract, which calls for a \$13 million salary. But, of course, the months have passed with no word from Favre, who did post a statement on his website reminding everyone that his ankle problems didn't mean his career was over.

Sonics, Sixers win in U18 caging

By WALTER SUTHERLAND

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The Sonics and Sixers

won Monday night's UBA Youth League matchups held at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Sixers bounced back and

loss record after out-muscling the smaller Sparks.

Joseph Ada and the Sixers lit up the Sparks in this battle; Ada tallied 12 points in the first half and received mixed support from teammates.

Frank Mettao and Eugene Manglona led the Sparks with

tively, but had trouble working the ball down low to their other big man, Jonathan Norita.

At the half, the Sixers led by six, 30-24. Ada was just getting started in the opening half and came up big in the last period with 20 more points.

Mettao and Manglona tallied

improved to an even 3-3 win- eight and seven points, respec- 14 and 11 points in the last half, but still could not get Norita involved offensively. Romulo Sarmiento came off the bench and hit a couple of threes, but the Sparks' effort fell short as they appeared visually flustered during the last minutes of the contest.

In the earlier game, the Sonics blew out the Rollers B

Catalonia has a "schizophrenic" relationship with the national team-and attributed the burst of enthusiasm to the fact that the team played well.

NGO worker Elisenda Siguerola felt some people were playing up the Spain unity theme.

"One thing is football and another is politics," said Siguerola, "even though politicians try to mix the two.'

Contributing to enthusiasm from unlikely places was the fact that several of Spain's best players are from Catalonia-Xavi Hernandez, Carles Puyol and Gerard Pique. The team also included superstar Xabi Alonso, from the Basque region.

In Bilbao, Alejandro Munoz said his daughter was wearing a Spanish national team jersey on Monday, but noted that "she also has a Basque one.'

"I think the celebrations in the Basque region should be seen as normal and will improve relations between the region and Spain," said Munoz, 48.

Other Basques, like 29-yearold Aitor Elexpuru, said Spanish politicians against greater Basque autonomy would use the win for political purposes.

"A lot people wanted Spain to win so they could show the Spanish jersey and flag to those of us who don't feel Spanish," he said. "They wanted Spain to win, but not for football."

The victory, however, brought at least some Spaniards from diverse backgrounds together, meaning it accomplished "unfinished business for Spain, so it's been good for everyone," said Soledad Gonzalez, 51, a security guard from Madrid.

She added: "I hope that, God willing, finally, the Spanish flag means being Spanish and not being a fascist, as was the case not so long ago."

During the dictatorship of Gen. Francisco Franco (1939-1975), Catalans, Basques and others were forbidden from speaking their languages and it was illegal to publish books in those languages.

squad, 57-45, and improved their record to 4-2. The Rollers fell to the sixth spot out of a total of eight teams with a 1-4 record.

In a well-balanced attack, Sonics' Tristan Ecalnea, Adrian Palacios, Tim Sula, and J.P. Villanueva each scored six points in the first half.

John Norita had another impressive individual performance for the Rollers with 11 points in the opening period. Norita received some help early in the game from Jon Cenir who added eight points in support.

At the half, the game was still close at, 27-24, Sonics, but it did not last long. Ecalnea led the Sonics in the second half with eight more points and received three buckets of support from Adrian Palacios.

Norita piled on 10 more points for the Rollers in the final period and got a little help from John Palacios with six points, but the Sonics' defense was the real difference in this game.

Coming off a close loss against undefeated Kagman 1-2-3 last week must have left the Sonics with a bad taste in their mouths. Smelling blood, their feisty defense took no mercy in this one and they utilized their press extra hard to bounce back with a win.

First Game

Sonics 57 - Ecalnea 14, Palacios 12, Villanueva 12, Cadiang 8, Ferrer 6, Brana 2, Sula 2, Demei 1.

Rollers B 45 – Norita 21, Cenir 10, Palacios 6, Teregeyo 6, Guerrero 1, Yap 1.

Scoring by halves: 27-24,

Second Game

Sixers 74 – Ada 32, C. Duenas 10, Fleming 7, Flores 6, Palacios 6, R. Duenas 5, Benavente 4, Castro 4.

Sparks 63 - Mettao 22, E. Manglona 18, M. Manglona 8, J. Norita 7, Sarmiento 6, Santos 2.

Scoring by halves: 30-24,

SPAIN

From Page 28

off Catalonia region, which has long sought greater autonomy, and the separatist Basque region, where anything pro-Spain is often shunned.

The massive Madrid street party came after players visited Madrid's Royal Palace, normally used only for dreary state affairs. But team chatted and had drinks with King Juan Carlos, who hugged many players and gave coach Vicente del Bosque friendly punches on the cheek and the chest.

"You are an example of nobility. sportsmanship, good play and team work," said the king.

Team members then traveled to government headquarters, where they were greeted by Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, ministers and hundreds of ecstatic children invited to the event.

"They won the cup but it belongs to all Spaniards," shouted a delighted Zapatero.

Goalkeeper and captain Iker Casillas said the victory meant "Spain's name will be on top of the world for the next four years."

Next came an open-air bus ride through Madrid's historic center, the epicenter of the celebration for the second day in a row. Crowds overflowed into the street and surrounded the team bus, virtually all sporting the red and yellow national colors along the five-kilometer (three-mile) route as the bus crawled through the crowd with the players waving and raising the gold World Cup trophy into the air.

At the route's end, firefighters hosed down fans sweltering in 36 Celsius (96 Fahrenheit) evening heat.

As the parade snaked down the Gran Via in the heart of Madrid, Spanish air force fighter jets flew overhead spewing out the colors of the national flag.

On the bus, the players waved flags and saluted the screaming fans below. Casillas raised a red and yellow carton cutout of Octopus Paul, the mollusk from the German zoo that predicted Spain's victory

Such was the multitude clogging the streets and avenues that the team arrived more than hour late at the finishing esplanade. Madrid town hall urged no more people to go to the park area, as it had already reached its 150,000 capacity.

"For us Spaniards this is important. It is a way of showing that Spain is united," said Roberto Lopez, 48 Madrid car salesman. "It's not Galicia on one side and Catalonia on the other.

Juan Mateos, a 35-year-old civil servant described the celebrations as "a bit of anesthetic to forget about our problems."

The party started when the players' plane touched down, flying Spanish flags from its cockpit windows, with dozens of airport workers cheering from the runway. It taxied to a stop as cars driving by on nearby highways blared their horns in support.

A roar of approval rose as Casillas stepped from the plane and raised the trophy. The crowd chanted "Campeones! Campeones!" (Champions! Champions!). Then the players in their team jerseys walked from the plane to a waiting Spanish football federation bus without commenting to journalists.

The spectacle was "very important, it helps us forget a lot of things, like the economic crisis, for example, or people's domestic issues," said Javier Sanchez, a 42-year-old photographer from Madrid.

But will the ecstasy last? Could this be Spain's moment to unite under a single flag? Or is it a fleeting instance of patriotism following near economic chaos when the country was targeted as one of the European nations most likely to default on debt like Greece?

Spain has been depressed by

ployment and nationalist regions fighting to separate from the country or at least win much greater autonomy and near-nation status.

a debt crisis, 20 percent unem-

While the spotlight was on Madrid, the win led to a rare sight in the Catalonia region's capital of Barcelona: Spanish flags waving side-by-side with Catalonia's own red and yellow flag.

"It has been very strange, but now it is being tolerated," said Saray Lozano, a 31-yearold taxi driver from Barcelona. "If it weren't for football, you might get rocks thrown at you" for displaying Spain's national symbol.

About 75,000 people celebrated the win in Barcelona, and about 2,000 people waved Spanish flags and wore the team's football jersey in the Basque city of Bilbao-actions rarely seen because of the violent campaign led by the separatist group ETA since 1968 to gain independence from Spain.

Just wearing the jersey on the streets of Bilbao before the win was a sure way to get insulted and risk assault.

But experts said the idea of Spain overcoming its internal divisions and economic woes because of the World Cup is unlikely to become reality. In and around Bilbao, authorities blamed sabotage for an electrical outage that canceled an open air broadcast of the final game, and several people supporting the national team were attacked by separatists.

"I wouldn't have thought the euphoria over the football will last very long," said Paul Preston, a Spain expert and history professor at the London School of Economics.

As for Spain's fragile economy, the win "may soften the blow of the economic news, but it won't have a long-lasting effect," Preston said.

Joan Foguet, a Barcelonabased journalist for the leading Spanish newspaper El Pais, said

SENIORS

From Page 28

only two games left and a round-robin between the three second-place teams still active, the Juniors are thus mathematically eliminated from the finals contention.

They challenged top seed Chinese-Taipei at 10:30am yesterday, but results are still pending. They play their final game today against Indonesia at 10:30am.

Ada still praised the Junior and Big League teams despite the squads not making it to the finals. "Hats off to the Junior and Big League teams because even though they are out of the tournament, their losses were very close," he said.

RJ

From Page 28

Summer League, in Recreation Park Golf Course South, Long Beach, Macaranas had a 3-over par 34 to lead the boys' 11 to 12 age group competition. At the Len Kennet Championship, where Tiger Woods once played, the CNMI golfer placed fourth.

After his pre-world championship tournaments, Macaranas rested for only two days before showing up at the opening ceremony and parade of flags for the 2010 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship on the south course of Torrev Pines on Sunday (Monday on Saipan).

"Today, R.J. was the CNMI's representative at the opening ceremony for Callaway Junior World Championship. This year, there were many former contestants that did not make it back, and I am proud that CNMI is back for a chance at the most coveted junior golf championship in the world," R.J.'s father, Richard said in

an e-mail to Saipan Tribune.

NMI Junior Golf donates to RJ

A day before the younger Macaranas hits the greens and fairways of the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo, his Summer Tour campaign got a needed boost when the Northern Marianas Junior Golf League donated \$500 to the California-based golfer.

Northern Marianas Junior Golf League's Edward Manibusan handed the donation to Darlene Macaranas, R.J.'s grandmother, in a brief ceremony at Joeten Susupe yesterday.

"On behalf of R.J.'s family, we would like to thank the Northern Marianas Junior Golf League for their generous donation. R.J. will be competing in various tournaments this summer and will continue to make the CNMI proud," Darlene said in a telephone interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

"We would like to wish R.J. good luck. May he continue to improve his game and represent the CNMI well," Manibusan said.

MINOR

From Page 28

After the training sessions, Minor will join her North Pacific teammates in battling the East and West squads in the POJC. She will be on her fourth POJC stint, but this time she will be competing in the girls U18 division.

"I know I am up against

tougher competition in the U18, but I will try my best. My goal is to make it to the Top 4," said Minor, who was entered in the U14 age group last year and finished third among 12 players.

Minor is only 14 years old and an incoming freshman at Marianas High School, but has been competing in higher age group and even in open division since last year to elevate her level of play.

"By competing in higher age group and in the open division, I get to push myself harder. It will be the same case in Fiji and I am looking forward to surviving the tough challenges ahead," she added.

Joining Minor in the North Pacific Team's U18 roster is Rafael Jones, who will leave Saipan this week for a brief vacation before heading to Fiji to

be with his teammates.

Chris Cajigan, Carl Dela Cruz, and Negahr Rastguiy of the North Pacific's U12 team and U14's Christian Miller, Jake Lee, Mikayla Lopez, and Melody Johnson are expected to leave for Fiji next week, as the POJC will run from July 26 to July 30.

The nine CNMI players form the core of the North Pacific Team. Other members of the squad are Guam's Marten Lai, Nadine Del Carmen, and Chloe Gadsen, FSM's Alyssa Hawkins and Terry Rush, and Palau's Ayana Rengiil.

Players representing the North Pacific Team were determined via a qualifying tournament Saipan hosted last month. In the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament, Miller won the U14 division, while Rastguiy and Minor

topped the U12 and U18 age groups, respectively.



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CNMI Nationals

Bud Ice Bollers

Nationals stretch winning run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER



The Bud Light CNMI Nationals survived another tough test, downing erstwhile second-running Becks Sixsevenoh, 96-79, in the main game in the 2010 Bud-

weiser Men's Basketball League last Monday night at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

With the win, the Nationals improved to a 6-0 record

to keep the No.1 spot, while Becks Sixsevenoh slid from second to third place with its 5-2 slate.

The Nationals may have won by 17 points, but the victory was not handed to them on a silver platter. Coach Rufino Aguon's wards had to match Sixsevenoh's offensive firepower, keep up with their foes' intense physical defense, and elude Becks' own trapping defense to get away with a win.

With Tony Diaz having another explosive night, the Nationals had to find someone to trade baskets with the Becks gunner and Dan Barcinas rose to the challenge, firing 26 points and playing his best offensive game so far in the nine-team league.

On defense, big man Tim Quan was there to push off burly Kelvin Fitial. Fitial averaged in double figures in Becks' first six games, but against Quan and the Nationals, the former was held to eight points. Quan blocked Fitial twice and the Nationals mobile center also stayed with Fitial outside, preventing the latter from connecting on 3-pointers. Fitial had five triples in Becks' 84-74 win against the Ol'Aces last week, but had none in last Monday

night's game. Besides playing good defense, Quan also shone on offense, drilling 19 markers for his best game so far for the Nationals since joining the team last Wednesday.

The Nationals led by eight at the end of the first quarter, 21-13, and broke away in the second period, 49-32, as they started putting up their potent trapping defense in that canto.

However, Sixsevenoh gave the Nationals a dose of their own medicine in the third period, forcing Aguon's players to commit turnovers and allowing brothers Tony and Ed Diaz easy fastbreak plays.

By the end of the third canto, Becks was back in the game, behind by only nine, 59-68.

At the start of the fourth canto, the Diaz siblings sat out on the bench and the Nationals capitalized on Becks' gamble and launched a quick 10-2 run to widen the gap, 78-61. Jose Tumaquip led the run, scoring six points.

The Diaz brothers returned to the game with over seven minutes left in the fourth, but the Nationals did a good job protecting the double-digit lead.

Becks made one final push to rally back with Ed Diaz canning a triple and cutting the lead to 11, 82-71, going into the last five minutes of the game. However, Quan answered

with back-to-back buckets underneath to put the Nationals in a safe distance, 86-71.

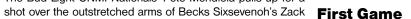
Hoegaarden IT&E 60, Budweiser Saints 48

In the first game, Hoegaarden IT&E also extended its winning run after defeating the Budweiser Saints, 60-48.

IT&E is now on a threegame winning streak, while the Saints remained winless in four games.

The second-running Hoegaarden IT&E (5-1) played better in the second half to foil the Saints' bid for an upset. Hoegaarden IT&E had an anemic first quarter scoring only seven points and fell behind after 10 minutes of play, 7-15. Both teams still struggled offensively in the second period, but the Saints still kept the lead at the break, 24-22.

Hoegaarden IT&E grabbed the lead at the start of the second half, 40-35, as it outgunned the Saints in the third, 18-11, and the former never looked back to cruise to its fifth win in six games.



Hoegaarden IT&E 60 Talania 17, Esdrelon 13,

Schuler 9, Melvin 8, Berline 7, Fernandez 3.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Budweiser Saints 48 – White 12, Lus. Reyes 11, Manibusan 10, Hocog 5, La. Reyes 4, Lu. Reyes 4, Tumaquip 1. **Scoring by quarters:** 7-15, 22-24, 40-35, 60-48.

Second Game

Bud Light Nationals 96 - Barcinas 26, Quan 19, Tumaquip 14, Naraja 10, Lizama 9, Iguel 8, Johnson 5, Mendiola 2, Villacrusis 2, Chariton 1.

Becks Sixsevenoh 79 – T. Diaz 34, E. Diaz 19, Lizama 10, Fitial 8, Z. Diaz 4, Benavente 2, Gapor 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 49-32, 68-59, 96-79.

Beach Tower Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Aqua Walk coordinator Mario Espeleta of the Marianas Walking Association said registration is free and organizers will be taking down names of participants beginning at 7am; with the

Espeleta said the 2010 IT&E Aqua Walk will have two courses one is in the water and one along the beach shoreline.

event commencing immediately after.

"The event comprises of a twokilometer walk in the lagoon and a four-kilometer walk along the beach shoreline for those who do not want to get wet," he said.

Event sponsor IT&E will also raffle off the company's giveaway merchandise and 2010 Aqua Walk souvenir Tshirts are for sale at \$7 apiece.

Last year, over 40 community

members had fun under the sun and on the sand while wading in the waters off Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel in the 2009 edition of the IT&E Aqua Walk, a couple of days before super typhoon Choi-Wan blew into town.

Like all MWA activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 2010 IT&E Aqua Walk. IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

For more information about the 2010 IT&E Aqua Walk and MWA's future events, contact Mario Espeleta at 322-8876, Hiroko Tenorio at 322-8781, or Bea Quitugua at 285-1694.

Known formerly as Saipan Walking Association, Inc., MWA was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001, and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking. (Saipan Tribune)

Voyagers, Fotten Palau lead in team 8-ball

Aqua Walk this Saturday

The 2010 IT&E Aqua

Walk will be held this

Saturday morning,

July 17, in the wa-

ters off the Aquarius



Johnny's IT&E Vovagers and the USS Peleliu Club-Fotten Palau sit atop the lat-

est Saipan Billiards Association's Budweiser Open 8-Ball League team standings in the Agingan and Obyan divisions, respectively.

The Voyagers now boast a 101-25 win-loss card after defeating the VFW Sentinels, 6-0, last week.

USSP Fotten Palau still reigns in the Obyan Division even though it lost its match against the 10/10 Home Boyz, 2-5. USSP holds a 52-74 win-loss record.

In the Agingan Division, NTT Docomo Hustlers are in second place with a 92-34 record after brushing off the D Pirates Huwa, 6-1, while the 10/10 Bud Brothers are still only a game behind them with a 91-35 record after defeating USSP Whatever, 6-1.

The Home Boyz improved their

record, but remained fourth in the standings with a 79-47 slate. D Pirates Huwa round out the five spot with a 65-61 record.

In the Obyan Division, VFW Shark Attack defeated Team Pirates, 5-2, and hold second place with a 46-80 card.

USSP Whatever fell to third after being pounced by the Bud Brothers, 6-1, and now have a 44-82 win-loss record.

Team Pirates are lagging in the fourth chair just two games ahead of the last place VFW Sentinels. The Pirates have a 31-95 card, while the Sentinels are at 29-97.

Other notables from last week include Dave Maratita who knocked the 8-ball in off the break twice and Jerry Soriano who ran the rack seven times.

For more information about the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League, contact Wally Ellama at 233-4397 or 285-5967. (Walter Sutherland)



Agingan Division first place team Jonny's IT&E Voyager players pose for a photo. From left, team captain Rolly Villanueva, Mark Brian Nilves, R.J. Mascariñas, Luis Fajardo, and Roman Rodriguez.



Obyan Division first place team USS Peleliu Club-Fotten Palau players pose for a photo. From left John Mongami, Taylor Watanabe, Arnel Orbeta, and team captain Ron Chisato.

CNMI athletes urged to join 26th Summer Universiade

The Bud Light CNMI Nationals' Pete Mendiola pulls up for a

Diaz, right, and Kelvin Fitial during their game in the Budweiser

caging last Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is encouraging CNMI athletes to compete in the 26th Summer Uni-

versiade in Shenzhen, China.

"It is a once-in-a-life opportunity for CNMI athletes. If we can't compete in the Olympics, this is the next big thing for our athletes," NMASA president Michael White said during the association's monthly meeting last week at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Summer Universiade is a biennial event under the Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) or International University Sports Federation. It gathers student-athletes from around the world with some of de Mallorca, Spain, in 1999 and 162 them trying out for Olympic and world countries in Fukuoka, Japan, in 1995. champion teams.

The competition is open to athletes in the 17 to 28 age group and enrolled in colleges and universities around the world. For member-countries with less than two million population, like the CNMI, FISU accepts athletes, who may not be enrolled in a university, but at least are enrolled in high school and fall in the age bracket.

The Summer Universiade is an international sporting and cultural festival. It is consists of 10 compulsory sports and up to three optional sports chosen by the host country. The required sports are athletics, basketball, volleyball (indoor), soccer, tennis, fencing, gymnastics, swimming, diving, and water polo.

The Summer Universiade drew a record figure of 6,009 participants in Palma

White said sending CNMI athletes to next year's Summer Universiade is feasible, as it will not require too much spending on airfare. Shenzhen is in the southern tip of China, on the Hong Kong border and regular airfare costs less than \$1,000, and sometimes as low as \$500.

"We can send a reasonably size delegation to the Summer Universiade. Individual sports are encouraged to join and if you are interested, raise funds early and we will discuss later how NMASA can assist your athletes when you decide to compete next year," White added.

White is hoping tennis players, swimmers, and tracksters will be interested in representing the CNMI to the Summer Universiade, which will run from Aug. 12 to 23.



Saipan Tribune Sports



28 WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2010 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Senior All-Stars remain unscathed

» Juniors, Big Leaguers eliminated

By WALTER SUTHERLAND walter sutherland@saipantribune.com

The CNMI Senior All-Stars continued their sterling run in the 2010 Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament after beating Indonesia, 7-4, last Monday at the Gelora Bung Karno baseball field in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The win gave the Commonwealth squad a 2-0 record in the tournamentso far the only undefeated team in the Senior League competition. They defeated archrival Guam, 4-3, last Sunday.

The CNMI Senior All-Stars had a rest day yesterday and will challenge the Philippines today at 11am, Saipan time.

If they win today they will earn an automatic berth to the Regional championship where they will face either Guam (1-1) or the Philippines (1-1). Host team Indonesia is out of contention with a 0-2 winloss record.

CNMI Little League District Administrator James Ada is happy how the Seniors' have played so far in the Regionals, considering that the local Little League program had to go

through a host of problems, a last-minute flight to Jakarta being the most troublesome.

"I am proud of the achievement of our CNMI

Senior Division team and am hoping that they win their last game so that they earn automatic entry into the Regional championship match," he said.

The CNMI Big League All-Stars, meanwhile, lost their second game to the Philippines, 6-5, and are now out of contention for the Regional championship.

The CNMI had a 5-3 lead going into the seventh inning and fell victim to another come-from-behind victory, this time a last-gasp, threerun rally from the Philippines.

Since there are only four teams in their pool, this division will most likely come down between Guam and the Philippines, which both have 2-0 winloss records with only one more game to go before the finals.

The Big Leaguers played Indonesia yesterday at 2:30pm and will play in the division consolation game tonight at 8:45pm, most likely again against Indonesia, which also as of yesterday, is winless with two losses.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars also bowed out of contention after being shutout by the Philippines, 0-5, in a game where the Commonwealth's batters were held to only four hits.

Guam, Hong Kong, and the Philippines are all chasing undefeated Chinese-Taipei with a 2-0 record. With

See SENIOR on Page 26

Members of the winning national soccer team celebrate their victory after a parade in Madrid on Monday, July 12, 2010. Spain won the World Cup after defeating the Netherlands 1-0 on Sunday.

Spain World Cup fiesta goes wild, boosts unity

By ALAN CLENDENNING and FRANK GRIFFITHS

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

MADRID (AP)—Spain erupted with its biggest fiesta in memory Monday when its football team returned to a jubilant nation after winning the World Cup, giving elated Spaniards a break from months of economic gloom

and political squabbling. Hundreds of thousands of people—

if not more-jammed Madrid's historic avenues as an open air bus ferried the national team down stately avenues to cheers from Spaniards

decked out in a sea of red and yellow, the colors of the Spanish flag.

The celebration in Madrid, where national unity is at its strongest, was expected. But

there were striking examples of support from unlikely places: The well-

See SPAIN on Page 26

RJ begins World Championship bid

R.J. Macaranas watches his ball after teeing off in one of the pre-world championship tournaments he competed in early this month in California.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



CNMI's R.J. Macaranas will tee off at the Country Club of Rancho Bernardo in San Diego California today to start his title bid in

the 2010 Callaway Golf Junior World Golf Championship.

Macaranas is among the 120 junior golfers competing in the boys' 11 to 12 age group division of the annual tournament. He will be battling the division championship against junior golfers from the mainland, the Philippines, Japan, Malaysia, Canada, Guam, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Panama, Colombia, Peru, China, Hawaii, Mexico, Thailand, Germany, Singapore, Argentina, Australia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Indonesia, and Hong Kong

Macaranas will be on top form when he competes in the three-day tournament, as he had completed six tournaments before participating in the world championship. The list includes the La Mirada, Desert Horizons, Len Kennet at the Lakewood Country Club, Bob Von Storch Memorial at the Chaparral Country Club, Long Beach Junior Golf Summer League at Recreation Park South, and the Scholl Canyon Championships.

In La Mirada, he eagled a 25-foot putt and finished in the Top 10 with his 1-over par score. At the Desert Horizons Open, Scholl Canvon Championship, and Bob Von Storch Memorial, he finished third. At the

See RJ on Page 26

Minor arrives in Fiji early to train



CNMI's Thea Minor, back row left, poses with players training at the Pacific Oceania Regional Training Centre in Lautoka, Fiji

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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CNMI netter Thea Minor left early for Fiji to train with elite players before competing in two tour-

naments there. Minor left Saipan on Friday afternoon and will be staying in the Pacific Ocea-

nia Regional Training Centre in Lautoka to train for two weeks before competing in 2010 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and

the 2010 Oceania Closed Junior Championships.

"It's an honor and privilege to be invited again in the regional training center and join the regions' se-

> lected players and train with them. I believe the training will help improve my game even though it's only for two weeks," Minor said.

"I look forward to meeting old friends and playing with and against them," Minor said.

See MINOR on Page 26